Tuesday, April 24, 2007 4-A Vol. 22 / No. 123 www.inquirer.net

GMA OKs bird sanctuary in Parañaque

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY SIGNED A PROCLAMATION establishing a 175-ha bird sanctuary and eco-tourism area along the coastal lagoons of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

DETAILS, A-10

Gov't exceeds budget deficit ceiling BUSINESS / B1

Reward for jeweler's heir wanted for murder raised to P4 million METRO / A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

EARTH DAY PRESENT. Water birds forage for food on the mudflats in Parañaque City, part of a 175-hectare area that has been declared a bird sanctuary by President Macapagal-Arroyo. In the background of this photo is some of the high rises of Makati City.

6 scramble for last 3 slots

Gov't to lend P34 billion to small businesses

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG HAS SINCE unclaimed P34 billion for lending this year to micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs)and an pair of others to spur growth in the countryside.

Gregg Bernardo, Presidential Management Staff director general, yesterday said that the directive is level out the huge amount this year had nothing to do with the midterm elections.

At a press briefing, Bernardo, the core eight officer for SMMEs, said many MSMEs in their hand already resided themselves of the loan window.

The MSME sector accounts for 99.6 percent of all business establishments in the country, providing 50 percent value added to the economy and employing 70 percent of the work force.

Government financial institutions (GFIs) don't require collateral for microlending, or loans ranging from P5,000 to P5,000, which is usually used to expand the servicers' stores and backyard industries, according to Bernardo.

DAVID / A4

Cayetano skids; Zubiri, Roco gain in Senate race

WITH ELECTION DAY LESS THAN A MONTH away, six candidates—three from the Genuine Opposition (GO), two from Team Unity (TU) and one independent—are vying for the last three slots in the senatorial race, a nationwide survey conducted by Social Weather Stations from April 14 to 17 showed.

EXCLUSIVE

In contention for the last three seats are former Sen. Vicente Sotto III (TU), Irinigeo "Gringo" Honasan (Independent), Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III (GO), Taguig Rep. Sigfrido Tinga (GO), Pasig Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri (TU) and Iloilo Rep. Roco (GO).

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 registered voters divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The margin of error was at more plus-or-minus 3 percentage points, except for proportions of 30 percent and below, in which the margin of error was plus-or-minus 4 1/3 percentage points.

The second of three SWS pre-election surveys with the exception are the statistical tie(in parenthesis) and former President Manuel Villar Jr. (46 percent) were still leading the list of candidates. "A statistical position is take the top nine seats." They were Sen. 1 and Sen. 2, respectively.

Reelectionist Sen. Ruffin Lucson (42 percent) and former Rep. Francis Escudero (41 percent) were tied at Nos. 3 and 4.

Biggest Gain / **Steepest Decline**
(Since start of campaign in February)

Candidate	% point gained	Candidate	% point lost
Angara, Edgardo	11	Pangilinan, Francis	10
Defensor, Ann Kristine	11	Legarda, Loren	10
Pimentel, Benigno	11	Richards, Leticia Ramos	10
Escudero, Francisco	10	Villar, Manuel Jr.	10
Lacson, Panfilo	10	Roxas, Mar	9

Source: Social Weather Stations
February and April surveys

All the leading four candidates are from GO.

Lacson and founders overtook reelectionist Sen. Francis Pangilinan (38 percent), who finished third in the previous SWS survey in March. Pangilinan was ranked 5th.

Reelectionist senators Ralph Recto (36 percent), Edgardo Angara (35 percent) and Joker Arroyo (32 percent)—all TU candidates—were now ranked sixth, seventh and eighth, respectively.

They each improved their showing from their previous ranks of seventh, eighth and 10th in the March survey.

In ninth place was Taguig Rep. Sigfrido Tinga (GO) at 29 percent, down from ninth place in March.

Voters the statistical tie, the situation of third would add at most two more candidates from GO, at most one more independent, and at most two more candidates from TU, to the minimum 10 and 70 seats of 9-1-1-1

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Metro country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rains in the afternoon or evening. Light to moderate winds coming from the East and Northeast are expected in the country.

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/news

Text us your feedback: inquirer news <space> message to 2327 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Salonga et al. take party-list row to SC

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING THE ELECTORATE SHOULD NOT BE made to vote party-list groups under a veil of ignorance, three groups led by former Sen. Jovito Salonga yesterday asked the Supreme Court to compel the Commission on Elections to release the names of the nominees of accredited party-list groups.

The petitioners, who included Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales, asked the high tribunal to annul the poll body's April 3 resolution which denied their request for the list of nominees in "patently erroneous, arbitrary and contrary to law".

In that resolution, the Comelec said the names of the nominees would only be released after 1 p.m. on election day. The poll body said the selection of party-list groups should not be permanently untested.

But petitioners composed of the Bantayan Association, Akbayan and Bantay Katarungan Foundation said the people should know who would represent the party-list they elected to fill the 20 seats of Representatives.

The poll body's decision not to release the names would promote "politics of ignorance" and is an unconstitutional restriction on free speech and access to information, the petitioners claimed.

"For the Comelec, in the guise of interpretation, to legislate that citizens should be prevented from learning who are the nominees of the party-list groups is to invalidate party-list elections in advance."

If the dismal, whole people vote under a literal veil of ignorance as to who are behind the groups they might end up voting for. This Kafkaesque nature is incompatible to a constitutional democracy" they said in the petition.

According to the petitioners, the Comelec erred in claiming that based on its interpretation of the party-list law, it was not required to release the names of nominees because the selection of party-list groups should not be personality-oriented.

They said the poll body "misread" the law of the party-list law since it was only barred from disclosing the nominees' names in the certification.

"The Comelec is reading (Section 7) as if it were on a mission to hurt the partisans of the statute declared unconstitutional by this honorable court. Either that or it has no idea what nonsense what the constitutional guarantee of free speech and access to information mean," they said.

The petitioners said that if the people did not know who the nominees of their chosen party-list group were, they would be unable to appreciate the aspect of their vote.

Information about the nominees—their qualifications, track record, reputation—are important variables in the selection of specific party-list groups.

The Comelec also has the burden of proving that it had good reason not to release the nominees' names, according to the petitioners.

The petition stemmed from various reports that the people behind several party-list groups do not represent poor and marginalized sectors, as mandated in the law.

The brother of Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos, a medical doctor, was reportedly the congressional nominee of a whole airport group.

Earlier, two nongovernment organizations also asked the high court to order the Comelec to release the names of the nominees and to disqualify 34 party-list groups for not really representing the sectors they claimed to represent.

They also asked the tribunal to issue a temporary restraining order against the proclamation of the 34 party-list groups, since the petition would be resolved most once the groups were declared winners in the coming elections.

They said the groups violated the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court stating that party-list groups and their nominees should represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors.

Poll watchdogs make up, team up

By Nikko Dizon

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT for Free Elections and the social arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines have resolved their differences over Namfrel's accreditation by the Commission on Elections to conduct a quick count of the May 14 polls.

Namfrel and the National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (Nassa) formally signed an agreement on April 18 agreeing "to work together to conduct the most comprehensive and balanced election monitoring in Namfrel's history."

Cenozoman is honorary captain of Forbes Park. If he continued to head Namfrel, this would be a violation of the watchdog's non partisan duties, the Comelec said.

The Church-backed Nassa, which provides manpower to Namfrel, had wanted to serve as the new quick-count body for the May elections.

Namfrel, which has conducted the country's election quick-count since 1986, supposedly failed to provide the Comelec 80 percent of its quick-count report in the 2004 presidential elections.

Namfrel and Nassa supposedly patterned the Comelec for quick count accreditation, but both agreed in principle that they would join forces. However, the Comelec unveiled on its Namfrel, and Nassa was left out in the cold.

With the ill-will mended, Namfrel and Nassa will muster as many volunteers as they can to cover all 350,000 election precincts nationwide.

Namfrel secretary will be provided the mid's copy of the election returns or the summary of votes per election precinct which they will transmit via fax or e-mail to the Namfrel tabulating center in La Salle Greenhills in Mandaluyong City.

Fely Alvia, Namfrel secretary general, said the quick-count body aims to tabulate 100 percent of the election returns but he admitted that the group would be hard put to do that in some areas.

2 party-list groups defy Comelec, name nominees

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO OPPOSITION SAYS DEFIED THE RULE OF THE Commission on Elections that the names of nominees of party-list groups should not be classified.

The Bantayan Association for National Advancement and Transparency (Banat) and the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice (UMDJ) have both come up with campaign materials bearing the names of their nominees.

Banat, the party-list group, some nominees' includes even the photographs in its nominees Salvador Belmonte, Raul Lambino, Joel Mendez, Ike Sun Jose and Rudy Salazar. The nominees, other than Mendez who is a electromechanic, are lawyers.

"People should know who they are voting for," Mendez said. "It is a matter of trust. Transparency is a way of giving good public service to the people. We showed our faces for honest and clean government."

Salvador Duardo, a nominee of the UMDJ, said the group had decided to reveal the names of all its nominees "simply because we have nothing to hide."

Aside from Duardo, the group's nominees are Virgilio Enriquez and Isidro Bonoan.

Banat and UMDJ appear to represent opposing parties.

Banat is seen as being pro-administration, largely because of Lambino, known for initiating the failed Malacañang-supported campaign to amend the Constitution via a signature campaign last year.

The UMDJ, on the other hand, is a staunch supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Its people and Duardo, in fact, belong to the so-called "Group 1." Last year, members of the group were seized by police and military agents for allegedly planning to kill Ms Arroyo and members of her Cabinet.

The division of Banat and the UMDJ is as usual in nominees, especially during campaign season, runs counter to the Comelec position. The body had earlier junked petitions to release the names of all nominees of each accredited party-list group.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AIM AUCTION MALINTA

Auction Dates: April 30 - May 3, 2007 STARTS AT 9:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates: April 26 - 29, 2007 STARTS AT 9:30 A.M. SHARP

TRUCKS | HEAVY EQUIPMENT | MISC. ITEMS

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru: ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 856-8888

30 dead so far in poll violence

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE HAS ONlisted 30 people killed so far since the election campaign period officially began on Jan. 14.

With 20 days to go until the May 14 elections, police say the number compares favorably with the figures from the 2004 elections, when 140 people were killed in poll-related violence nationwide.

The PNP said it was exerting effort to keep the toll low by banning dozen and meeting to dismantle 15 private armies nationwide, most of them maintained by local politicians.

Police officers have also confiscated 1,376 persons so far for violating the gun ban instituted during the election period by the Commission on Elections and seized 1,499 guns from individuals not carrying permits from the Comelec or carrying firearms outside their residences.

Statistics from the PNP as of April 22 showed it was in the National Capital Region where the highest number of gun ban breakers were arrested, at 384 persons, followed by Region 6 A at 314.

Region 4-A, which covers the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area, also logged the biggest number of firearms confiscated with 276. The NCR came in second with 226.

The data also showed that policemen were cited 109 explosive devices around the country.

The police subsequently brought 149 cases against violators of the gun ban in court. Police investigators are still looking into 666 other cases of gun ban violations. Alexis Romero and Angela Bolasco

File raps, Abalos tells griping groups

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CHAIR BENjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday urged the militant party-list organizations that had accused Malacañang of "buying" party-list groups to file a formal complaint before the poll body and not merely seek publicity in the media.

"They should file a complaint before the Comelec. What is there to hide? If they go to the media? Publicity. Why not direct their complaint to us? It's the best if we go to a tribunal," said Abalos in Filipino during a press conference.

He said the purported Malacañang directional steering that the government was buying some party-list organizations should "not be authenticated."

The statement drawn is similar to militant party-list groups Gabriela and Migrante International.

"For all we know the document is not authentic and we still have to examine it," Abalos said.

He added the poll body was ready for preparing for the May 14 elections and could not launch an investigation into the allegations.

Government officials are not prohibited from supporting party-list organizations, according to the Comelec chair. What they have to do is to give government funding to all party-list groups. Nikko Dizon

THE Virgin of Manaoag

Virgin of Manaoag fiesta set April 25

THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES OF THE VIRGIN of Manaoag, rediscovered among Catholic faithful for their many miracles, will converge in the Pangasinan town named after her for one of its biggest annual celebrations on April 25.

That year, said Fr. Pantoja dan, OP, prior of the shrine, "we pray for clean and peaceful elections and that voters be guided and inspired by the Blessed Mother of Manaoag."

Special ceremonial novenas have been held every hour from April 16 to 24 in the shrine, the Our Lady of the Rosary Church of Manaoag, culminating in a big procession at 5 p.m. on the 25th—the day of the Manaoag town fiesta.

The 400-year-old ivory statue, adorned with precious antique stones donated by devotees over many generations, continues to attract thousands of devotees every weekday and hundreds of thousands on weekends.

Gov't disaster response gets P2.6-M boost from IBM

By Nico T. Dichoso Jr.

IBM PHILIPPINES TURNED OVER A grant of $54,057 (P2.6 million) to the National Disaster Coordinating Center (Office of Civil Defense (NDCC-OCD) in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday to improve the government's emergency response capabilities.

NDCC executive officer and OCD administrator Glenn Rabonza said separate the grant would boost the "much-neglected" ICT (information and communication technology) component of the country's disaster management system.

"With this grant we can use the latest technology to speed up our response. We can't do our work manually anymore," he said.

The grant, facilitated by the IBM International Foundation, would provide equipment and training for IBM's Emergency Response Networks (ERN) solution and an open-source application called Sahana Disaster Management System.

IBM bundled the ERN and the Sahana system, which was developed in Sri Lanka after the 2004 Asian tsunami, for local use. These tools would help the NDCC facilitate real-time coordination and information exchange with government agencies, local government units, non-governmental organizations and private firms.

Mobile wireless communications and Internet connectivity play crucial roles in the localized ERN and Sahana systems as they enable disaster managers, volunteers and field operators of NDCC to coordinate closely with colleagues remotely, even in the event of damage to power and telephone lines.

The grant includes a cash component of $24,195 (P1.2 million) to cover one year of satellite subscription fees from a commercial provider of NDCC's choosing," said IBM Philippines country manager James Rhinehart.

The grant also has a hardware component. It consists of two Lenovo 30kp ThinkpadnotebookPCs installed with the latest version of Sahana; hardware including a wireless router, satellite antenna and terminal, two phones that support voice over the Internet, a satellite phone with GSM, a mobile dockpt printer with battery and a solar panel kit and battery.

There is also a training component, where IBM will install and test all the equipment and provide user guides to NDCC.

Graft raps filed vs Barbers over Intramuros stadium

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Jeannie Aning

A GRAFT COMPLAINT WAS FILED YESTERday in the Office of the Ombudsman against Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Ricardo Bobiles for "threatening" the 400-year-old walled Intramuros.

The complainants—former PTA general manager Vivian Rico and Rogelio Barbers—accused Barbers of "recklessly putting in danger" the historical value and improvement of the historic Walled City by ordering the construction of a sports complex adjacent to the ancient walls despite disapproval by the Intramuros Administration (IA).

The complainants asked for Barbers' suspension to prevent him from "tampering" witnesses to what they said was a saga of grave misconduct in the reconstruction and building of the project.

Barbers, however, defended the existence of the P25-million stadium as a portion of the golf course of what is now Club Intramuros as "valid and legal," He said it had the approval of Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.

"I assure the public that the design of the sports complex will be harmonious with the precious heritage and architectural beauty of the Walled City," Barbers said in a statement. He also said the walls would not be harmed by the construction work.

Barbers assured Rico and Barapo, his predecessors, of political grandstanding.

In their complaint, Rico and Barapo cited the IA notation concerning repair of June 2005 which rejected the proposed structure because it was not in accordance with the architectural standards meant to preserve the heritage site. A presidential decree says all buildings in Intramuros must conform to 16th- to 19th-century Philippine-Spanish architecture.

Initially, Barbers wanted to construct the stadium inside the walls of Intramuros, along Victoria Street and Bonifacio de Recoletos.

The committee said the stadium would obstruct the view of the walls and "will not contribute to creating the ambiance the administration was trying to create—of Intramuros in the 1890s."

Site moved to driving range

Despite the ruling, approved by the IA board in May 2006, the complainants said Barbers still entered into a memorandum of agreement earlier in the year to construct another sports complex in the 18th Intramuros driving range.

According to Rico and Barapo, the vacation did not have the approval of the IA or the board of the Philippine Tourism Authority. They questioned why Barbers did not call for a new bid but awarded the new contract to the same private contractor, under the same terms and conditions, and at a price way above the P9 million allotted for the project.

Meanwhile, Barbers said he welcomed the filing of charges on the construction of the PTA sports complex "to prove once and for all that the actions done for this project were always based and based on a strong legal foundation."

Want to help RP take to the air?

MAKE YOUR BRIGHT IDEA PUT LITERALLY.

The Philippine Air Force has called on the country's budding inventors to share their ideas with the radio agency research and development team recently assembled to create original Filipino aviation technology.

Lt. Col. Ferdinand Macasaet, one of the organizers of the Filipino Aviation Research and Development Institute, yesterday called on individuals and organizations to participate in the three-year endeavor aimed at creating the Philippines' own technology for both military and commercial aviation.

"We are reaching out to anyone who has a bright idea because in the project, the more, the merrier. What is important is that they have the right ideas," said Macasaet, a director at the PAF 411th Maintenance Wing based at Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Touted as the biggest government-private sector cooperation effort, the research and development team came together early this month and set out to plan viable and innovative aviation projects, including Filipino-made aircraft and missiles.

Currently involved in this fresh attempt to revive research and development in the country are the PAF, the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard, aviation firms, and aeronautical and technical schools.

To help hasten the project, the summit's 300 board aeronautical engineers led by Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University asking the schools to lend their engineering and physics experts to the team, Macasaet said.

"We have sent them letters where we told them that we recently set up this organization, what our goals are, and we asked them to help us," Macasaet said.

The organization has set up an online group to facilitate virtual correspondence with participating individuals and agencies. A second meeting has been tentatively set for July, when the team would decide which projects to pursue.

The resulting technology is envisioned to be sold commercially and used for the military's defense requirements.

Those interested in taking part in the project may send a message to Macasaet's email address at feddmacasaet@yahoo.com.

Tarra Quismundo

Israel Celebrates!

59th Independence Day Celebration

Blessed is everyone who blesses you, O Israel...

YAOHUSHUA

He Messiah

(The Glory of Israel)

With all our best wishes...

OHOL YAOHUSHUA
P. O. Box 1482,
Jerusalem, Israel 91014
http://www.YAOHUSHUA.org/index.html

We Believe in

TESSIE

AQUINO - ORETA

Pastor Jun Escobar
Victory Dumaguete Fellowship

"As a Pastor and Christian leader, I can personally attest to Tessie's spiritual progress over the past 3 years. Her reverence and personal relationship with God has taught her to walk in humility, to be generous and in a true spirit of reconciliation - her renewed zeal and genuine concern for national transformation has guided her in her service to poor students, teachers and other marginalized sectors. Let's bring the Champion of Education back to the Senate."

Dr. Esmeralda Recidoro
Former Secretary Department of Health

"Tessie is a woman of substance who understands and recognizes the vital importance of health care and education in human building. Her compassion and passion in promoting the welfare of women and children brought her at the forefront of major reforms in education and the protection of women's rights. She is truly a one of a kind public servant who deserves to be in the Senate."

Dr. Erlinda Pefianco
Former Secretary of Education

"Senator Tessie has empowered our teachers and principals by creating a governance system where authority, responsibility and accountability is shared by all levels of the Department of Education. Today our children benefit from better learning because of Tessie's landmark work in education. For our children's future, she needs to be back in the Senate."

Paid for by Educators for TEE, 4765 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Metro traffic: Few accidents but very slow

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY Leandro Mendoza has both good news and bad news about road safety in Metro Manila.

The good news, he said in a statement yesterday marking Global Road Safety Week, is that the accident rate in the country, particularly in the metropolis, is low compared to many other countries.

The bad news is that the reason for the relatively low accident rate is because traffic hardly moves on Metro Manila's many clogged streets.

The exception could be Quezon City, the most accident-prone area in the country.

"The average speed in Metro Manila is between 15-20 kilometers per hour. This could be one reason for the comparatively low accident rate," Mendoza said in the release.

Aside from the thick layers of vendors, tricycles, pedestrians and diggers along many streets, Mendoza said the main culprit in carving up equities through the city's vital, narrow thoroughfares.

Land Transportation Office records showed there were 5.33 million motor vehicles registered in the country as of December 2006, about 1.15 million were in the metropolis. That's three of every 10 vehicles in the country.

In joining the observance of the third United Nations Global Road Safety Week, local transportation and health officials were forced to reflect on serious engineering, education and enforcement programs (their so-called three Es) that have yet to get traffic moving swiftly during the rush hour—or at any hour for that matter on many streets. More than 1,000 people were killed in road accidents in the metropolis, a term compared to many other countries.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III echoed the World Health Organization's warning against rising deaths and fatalities due to road accidents.

It is becoming a "public health epidemic" in countries in Asia, including the Philippines, Duque said, citing "an alarming rise" in the number of road mishaps affecting young people.

He said accidents—fatal, near miss and traffic-related—were now the fourth leading cause of death in the country, which they used to rank eighth three decades ago.

Figures from the Department of Public Works and Highways, however, did not bear Duque out. There were 8,260 accidents on national roads and highways reported last year, slightly lower than the 7,736 vehicular accidents in 2005.

As mentioned, the most accident-prone area in the country last year was Quezon City, where the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority logged 17,396 road accidents. Makati City came next with 7,298 road accidents.

Of the road accidents reported last year, about 60 percent, or 5,951, were treated as "human error."

Mendoza said road safety should be taught in schools, as students go to school and crossing busy streets face risks and are the most vulnerable to drivers.

Lifting of liquids ban on aircraft faces delay

By Tarra Quismundo

WHILE THE OFFICE FOR Transportation Security (OTS) welcomed the idea of relaxing the ban on liquids and gels in carry-on baggage, it recommended reservations over moves extending local airport regulations to allow 100 milliliters or less of these items to be brought on board aircraft passengers online.

OTS head executive assistant Dan Tadeo said yesterday that the agency was still weighing the security impact of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) recommendation to allow regulated amounts of liquids and gels in carry-on baggage.

An agency under the Department of Transportation and Communications, the OTS has the responsibility to oppose or reject new and revised security regulations in the country's airports.

"The OTS is considering the lifting of the total ban of liquids, aerosols and gels in carry-on baggage as the ICAO recommended. However, there are issues to resolve," Tadeo said.

Currently, Philippine airports enforce a total ban on liquids, gels and aerosols in carry-on baggage, a regulation that has been standardize in August last year in light of a terror threat involving liquid bombs in the UK. The rules were later revised and the ICAO recommended allowing 100 ml or less of these materials in carry-on passenger cabins. The items must also be placed in resealable transparent bags.

The original regulation is maintained here, however, and liquids and gels of any amount must be stored in check-in baggage.

Among the OTS concerns, said Tadeo, was the matter of the resealable bags that passengers would carry on board their carry-on liquids and gels during inspection, the need for additional manpower to manually inspect, and the possible delays a scheme has might entail.

"We want our regulations to be similar to those implemented in other airports, but we want to first meet all agencies concerned with airport security to discuss these issues," he said.

R. Cruz Sr.; 72

FORMER OMBUDSMAN EXECUTIVE Rubens D. Cruz Sr. died on April 11 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his wife Merly; children Louise and Joey Roy and Emily, Larry and James; and sister Diana, and grandchildren Mary Louise, Jerico, Mary Aymee, Christopher, Bianca, Lizelle, Jacob and Gabby.

His remains are at Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park on Dasmariñas Avenue, Parañaque City.

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 22 ISSUE, Fr. Jerry Orbos' Memento column—"Awesome!"—on Page A14 of the Opinion section misquoted the URL of the blog containing information about the Divine Mercy Sunday's theological studies program. The URL is http://vmsquare.blogspot.com—not www.vmsquare.blogspot.com.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 23 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Mike A. Teng proud" of SP doctors' skills"—misstated the designation of Dr. Rommel Cariño at the Philippine Heart Center (PHC). Cariño is the training officer of the PHC's cardiovascular surgery division—not the head of the PHC's cardiovascular thoracic training center.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections/clarifications to the Ang Kuik, Philippine Daily Inquirer 8th Building, 5 Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala Boulevard, Makati City, fax them at 897-8710, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

Complainants whose lack of full name or citizenship may be seen to compromise their safety, should submit their request by e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax them at 897-8710/891-8161. Reader's Advocate Mel Flores' number is 897-8808 local 360.

SLIMMERS WORLD

GREAT BODIES, GREAT SKIN.

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

FOR ENROLEES TODAY! TO GET YOU STARTED.

Plus! FREE TRIAL!

PERSONAL TRAINING AND ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST! NO MONTHLY DUES! WITH MEDICAL SUPERVISION.

BODY METRICS

TONE 10 INCHES IN ONLY 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITE

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO HAVE A GREAT BODY BUT CANNOT BE CONVINCED TO EXERCISE, AND SURGERY IS NOT AN OPTION... TRY OUR PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS! GET FANTASTIC RESULTS EFFORTLESSLY! PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS STARTS AT ONLY P250.00 PER TREATMENT.

Introducing ENDOSLIM

SCULPT YOUR CURVES... BODIES DONE, HAVE FUN!

CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 536-3333

MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS NUMBER (7546637 7)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS.

FIRST 25 SLOTS.

CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.

- MESO WHITE
- MESO REJUVENATION
- COSMETIC FILLERS
- NUTRACEL-FACE
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- SKIN WHITENING
- FACIAL

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL

For beautiful smooth white skin.

CALL US: SKIN HOTLINE 525-8771

MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS NUMBER (7546637 7)

ALABANG: Nestle 770-50-87 / 0918 397 33 15 | MAKATI: Ayala / Dela 555 99 71 / 0921 464 96 23

BACOOD: Carol 0917 57 38 / 0917 822 43 99 | MEGAMALL: Mandaluyong / Market 637 15 43 / 0916 240 97 83

CALOOCAN: Olivo / Bonifacio 360-76 63 | PASAY ROAD: Buffet 857 36 80 / 0915 689 33 58

GREENHILLS: Sal/Cen 726 15 34 / 0917 826 6 204 | PASIG: Jihan / Glendale 647 38 16 / 0926 858 0 08

LEGASPI: Land / Amelia 893 8056 | QUEZON: Jan 924 42 16 / 0926 248 62 17

DEVANADOR

HOMAGAS

TRILLANES

BELTRAN

ESTRADA

DOJ blames high court for Gringo release

Front page A1

Gringo continued to languish in jail pending a murder charge.

Gonzalez said the high court's decision on Gringo's case set a "bad trend" since it could result in the release of all other suspects on bail.

"The Supreme Court decision to release him on the usual, maybe unnecessary they'll order bail for Beltran and Trillanes. They'll order bail for everybody," he said, referring to lieutenant Lieutenant Gregory Beltran and navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV.

"This created a trend. That is a bad trend. We cannot place in jail people who challenge the government in of the state," Gonzalez said.

"Maybe they'll order Mayani released," he added, referring to Moro National Liberation Front chief Nur Misuari, who is now under house arrest on a rebellion charge.

Joker ikinonod

Beltran is detained for a 22-year-old's abduction case while Trillanes is detained for involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Former lone senatorial candidate Atty. Antonio "Tonyboy" Trillanes said Gonzalez should also let Trillanes and Beltran join their bail campaign.

Antonio was summoned to what he called a political treatment against Misuari, whose support the administration is reportedly courting.

"The government should already release Beltran and Trillanes on bail because it's so wrong, unfair, unequal when those candidates have been in prison instead of doctors on bail," Antonio said in a press conference.

"Whatever there is an accepted application of law, I always stress with anger. You still remember why I am part of Team Unity and yet I am crying this because I see the unfairness of it all," he added.

"Trillanes is on the other side, my opponent, but I would like him to campaign because Homasas has been in jail for a long time."

Equal chances

Antonio, who recalled Homasas's failed coup attempt during the Aquino administration, said that what he was questioning was not the law but government policy.

"Everyone who sees more now he gives the chance to campaign. If Homasas was not allowed to post bail, there should have been an issue, but since they released Homasas then there is an issue," Antonio said.

He said the issues that Beltran and Trillanes supposedly committed were similar to Homasas, which was investigating an overdose in the government.

Since Beltran and Trillanes were charged with capital offenses, they were unbailable, Antonio suggested that the government lower its charges against the two to offenses that are bailable.

"The government can do that anytime," Antonio said.

For his part, Homasas voiced the expressed hope that Trillanes and Beltran would also be released on bail.

No deal

Homasas also told the Inquirer he was insulted by insinuations that he had struck a deal with the administration to obtain his own provisional freedom.

"They say that the timing is suspect. But what do I care? I can't tell the judge that he delay my hearing granted] bail because it is not politically expedient," Homasas said in an interview.

"People are asking why shouldn't Trillanes and Lt Col be released? I hope that they will be released but it is up to the courts to answer that," he added.

Homasas said the suggestion that he entered into a deal with the administration—supposedly in exchange for his running under the Team Unity ticket—was an insult to his family and to his political mates.

Homasas flatly denied claims he had been an ally for him to join Democrats and thumbed for Genuine Opposition (GO) for considering him when it was forming its senatorial slate.

'My party is the people'

"No, there was no offer. I have no intention to join Team Unity. I created as an independent. I will finish it as independent," Homasas said.

"My party is the Filipino people. They are more reliable," Homasas said.

Homasas said he had friends in both the administration and opposition slates and he found nothing wrong in cooperating with them during the course of the elections "for vote protection and vote consolidation."

"But (such a cooperation) will still be a position based," Homasas said.

"The issue is a bond. Because Party is a friend. But they belong to different parties. You as a person is a friend and so is Manny Villar. I'm friends with them. What's wrong if we form imaginary parties to force to help each other out?" he said.

"Who will say that he or she is against development, national unity and reconciliation?"

Fling and Paredes

Shortly after talking with the Inquirer, reporter Jamie Saez, Batch '91 Lawyer and Opposition women's al candidate Zoilano Barreto arrived at the restaurant where the interview was held.

Homasas, Lacson and Barreto all belong to the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1971.

Lacson earlier revealed campaign for Homasas and her self-styled "Independent" slate

Varied groups, Reds call for speedy probe of slay try

Kids of slain newsmen helped through art

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MYSEN ALABA and Anne (their first names have been changed) have been classmates former students since their grade-school days in San Fernando City, La Union.

Yesterday, the girls—daughters of slain radio commentator and Ilocos Mirror regional correspondent Antonio "Sonny" Alaba—were recognized for their academic achievements at the concluding ceremony of a special summer workshop organized by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, the third Mother Rosemarie Award and Congress on Children Journalism.

Mona, 15, and Anne, 14, participated in the six-day annual "Tuanggapi" workshop at Subic Bay Tomohon. With 20 other children of slain journalists, the teachers joined team-building activities and psychosocial sessions facilitated by the Children's Rehabilitation Center.

"We were taught how to express what we wanna," Mona told the lawyers.

She said they were urged to make artwork to express their feelings about what happened.

Mona recalled that she and her four siblings were in school when they learned of their father's death two years ago.

"My mother could not believe that our father was gone," Mona said, her voice filling with tears.

In the first two months, their grades suffered, especially because it was Sunday who had helped them with their projects.

But the winners gave much credit to strength and they ended up doing well in school.

"The 30th Tuanggapi workshop helped us meet other children with similar experiences. We realized we were more fortunate than others whose journalist parents were killed before their eyes," Mona said.

The aim after the workshop was organized—so the can be behind could finally gather.

It was conceived out of our desire to gather the children and their families and help them heal together," said Rubert Cordero Sandoval, NUJP scholarship program coordinator.

Binah said 231 children and 111 other guardians participated in the seven-day workshops in Subic.

Sonny Alaba, 48, mother of the radio program host Mona Flor, agreed that the workshop helped her grandchildren cope with their tragedy.

Pilar and her husband George, correspondent of the Times of Catholic Asian News (UCAN), were shot dead in Kidapawan City last year.

Two of their children are NUJP scholars, according to Mona.

"When their parents died, their eldest son, a freshman at Philippine Science High School in Davao, was traumatized while his younger brother was still late with a blood condition," she said. "We hope these siblings would come to mean for the sake of those left behind."

National Geographic coming to RP — envoy

By TJ Burgonio

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL is sending a team to the Philippines to make video surveys on species endemic to the country's deep seas, according to US Ambassador Kristie Kenney.

"They're sending a team to do deep sea research on species they believe was only be found in the Philippines and nowhere else in the world," Kenney told reporters during Earth Day's Earth Day celebration at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

The National Geographic documentary would be "a great way to call attention to the extraordinary biodiversity in the Philippines." It was also part of the partnership between Washington and Manila to protect the environment, she added.

The team is expected to arrive in September or October, according to Kenney.

"I have been here for a year now, I've seen so much of the country's natural beauty and the first thing that comes to mind is we've got to preserve it... for the next generation," she said.

The two countries have linked up on a number of projects, with Washington providing its annual $20 million ($475 million) grant to support local initiatives to protect the environment.

The US Agency for International Development has been supporting environmental programs across the country aimed at improving the management of coastal and forest resources, reducing air and water pollution, combating climate change and improving waste management.

The US Department of Treasury through the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, is also spending $9 million ($981 million) to fund nongovernmental organizations for forest conservation, according to the US Embassy.

Activities to support the Philippines in entering the most popular tourist stops in Asia, partly due to its high environmental

Asia archipelago, the Philippines has a coastline of 36,289 kilometers, one of the longest in Asia, and 20,000 square kilometers of coastal seas.

According to the environment department, 1,915 of the 2,145 marine fish species are found in the Philippine seas 10 of which are endemic, 1,729 are well-documented, 169 are pelagic and 506 dwell in deep waters. There are also 5,000 known species—lizard, snails and mollusks—981 known living algae, 915 reef fish species and 400 coral species, 12 of which are endemic. With Rosalyn Fabilloc, Ivanne Kris Abad and Jerome Aning

By Victor Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—TASK FORCE USERA Medes has joined the call of militant fishers and environmental groups for an independent fact-finding body to probe the mass cyanide attempt on Bobby Mallari Jr., Inquirer correspondent in Quezon.

"Bobby Mallari has been a fearless and committed journalist. His articles on the abuses of the Apec and the revelations of human rights highlights the importance of human dignity," said Fr. Pete Montallana of Task Force Ilaya Medes in a statement he e-mailed to the Inquirer.

"His articles on the ongoing destruction of the Sierra Madre keep in sense of the importance of urgently defending the environment," said Montallana, an advocate for the environment and the indigenous rights in the of Quezon.

Antonio Arbalillo, secretary general of Bayan Muna-Southern Tagalog, said the group strongly condemned the shooting of Mallari, saying it was a "blatant disrespect of the victim's human rights as a professional journalist."

Arbalillo said police for Rep. Teodoro Casiño visited Mallari on Sunday.

Even communist New People's Army rebels expressed concern over the attempt to kill Mallari and Johnny Dizon of ABS-CBN.

"Sonny and Johnny are both responsible and respected journalists not only in Quezon but in other parts of the country. The deliberate attempts on their lives were a direct affront to the cause of press freedom," said Ka Bernie de Guia, spokesperson of the NPA's Apolonio Mendoza Command, in a phone interview.

De Guia challenged Cilia and Sotelo to speed up their investigation.

"The police, Intercept Station of Intelligence and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group should exert efforts double time to finish the investigation as soon as possible. And they should make the result credible to be acceptable to the public," he said.

De Guia said the NPA had formed a group to investigate the incident and find out who was responsible for it.

Asked what the group would do if they found the suspects, De Guia said: "It's up to the unit that will carry out the arrest."

Undersecretary Duty of the Philippine CEPD spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal also issued a statement condemning the day attempt, as well as the killing recently of Radyo ng Bayan reporter Carmelo Palacios in Marsa Edja.

Rosal described Mallari and Dizon, the founder of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines-Quezon chapter, as "dedicated journalists."

Mallari and Dizon were fired upon by armed men riding tandem on a motorcycle which they were on their way to the dxEL FM radio station to broadcast their morning program.

Mallari was shot in the 1, 40-cal. bullet in the left side while Dizon was escaped injury. Doctors opted not to remove the slug from Mallari's body because doing so would pose a greater risk to his survival, they said.

Mallari supplanted Quezon Rep. Rafael Ramos, won a gubernatorial candidate, in the day attempt, after he said the lawmaker had made veiled threats to him following exposés by the two journalists.

Ramos, however, told the Inquirer he had no quarrel with Mallari and Dizon nor had submitted he had asked the two to stop their critical commentaries.

"I condemn this incident because it generates fear in my constituents," Ramos said in Filipino. "I did not do Mallari any harm. All I asked was for them to stop attacking me on radio."

6 scramble for last 3 slots

From page A1

The official Commission on Elections list of candidates (as early) includes the two Cayetanos, and left-leaning dating that they have pending disqualification cases.

However, the official Comelec list does not include Theodore Aquino (#1, despite Cayetano Chair Benjamin Abalos' "promise" in a speech before Rotarians), Comelec workers that Aquino's qualification would be resolved in time for the election.

Theodore Aquino, a UP-educated engineer, is a second cousin of Senator Aquino. Theodore is listed in San Francisco, California.

Threat of stray votes

IBP assigned votes for "Cayetano (unspecified)" (7 percent) to Ana Cayetano and the "Aquino (unspecified)" votes (6 percent to Maynee Aquino in Isabela province.

Another Cayetano got 8 percent in the survey this month to move 2 percentage points behind Lani "Dureh" Mercado, while Theodore Aquino obtained 2 percent.

Should the nominees be on the official list of candidates on May 14, all votes for Cayetano (unspecified or no first name) and Aquino (unspecified or no first name) would be considered "stray votes."

Serious blow

The loss of the unspecified votes "would be a serious blow to [those (than Peter Cayetano and Nancy Aquino) respectively election chances," PSPA said. The two opposition congressmen would be the unseen future of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

But the unspecified votes are less counted in their favor. Cayetano would not have landed in the top slots, while Aquino would not be between 11th and 13th places, nearly 3.4 percent votting for either of them.

But percentage points is equivalent to about 650,000 voters, so not dog to PSPA.

Disqualified

The Comelec's First Division disqualified Joselito Cayetano on March 27 from the senatorial race, questioning his capability to mount a nationwide campaign.

The Comelec learned that Joselito Cayetano was a child, is a nonresident of Taguig in favor City making P10,000 a month and was not a money engineer as he had claimed in his certificate of candidacy.

It was Alan Peter Cayetano who questioned Joselito's candidacy, Alan and Joselito were being used by Joselito's lawyer, President Macapagal-Arroyo's buddy, to confuse the electorate and derail his candidacy for senator.

Alan had secured lawyer of having secret bank accounts in Switzerland.

Joselito has filed a motion for reconsideration. He may later take the case to the Supreme Court. Until a final resolution of the case, Joselito would remain on the list of official candidates. (Serious returns and other poll documents.

If the case is surrendered by Election Dec, votes cast for Joselito Cayetano and Peter Cayetano would be considered stray.

Below No. 12

Candidates "statistically below No. 12" included actor Cesar Montano (TI, 21 percent) and Michael Defensor (TI, 21 percent), who are tied at between Nos. 10 and 15 (Senator Sen. John Osmeña (6), 26 percent), and Sergio del Joe Soy, Pecpeco Pelayo (TI), 20 percent) were tied at Nos. 16th and 19th, and Nicanor Magnayon (TI), 16 percent), who was ranked 20th.

Since the start of the campaign in February, the registered voters running for Defensor, who has signed large number of money for TV slots and print ads, have increased 21 percent.

Gain, decline since Feb.

Zubiri, Angara and Pichay were among the top gainers since the start of the campaign.

Zubiri gained 5 percentage points (from 19 percent in February to 27 percent in April), while Angara was gained 6 percentage points (from 27 percent to 33 percent).

Pichay gained 7 percentage points (from 13 percent to 20 percent).

The February survey was conducted from Feb. 22 to 27.

Also among the top gainers were Roco (6 percentage points, from 17 percent in February to 23 percent in April), and Escudero (5 percentage points, from 16 percent to 21 percent).

Montano also gained 5 percentage points (from 16 percent to 21 percent).

For their part, Legarda and Magsaysay gained 4 percentage points, from 34 percent to 38 percent and from 14 percent to 18 percent, respectively.

Across added 3 percentage points (from 29 percent to 32 percent).

Pangilinan topped the list of candidates who lost points. She went declined 10 percentage points since the start of the campaign (from 57 percent to 39 percent). Cayetano (our 12 percentage points (from 45 percent to 33 percent since February.

Gonzales, who landed in the Top 12 in the previous survey rounds, lost 10 percentage points (from 30 percent to 20 percent). He is now outside the circle of probable winners.

Others who lost ground included Villar (7 percentage points (from 52 percent to 45 percent) and actor Richard Gomez, 5 percentage points (from 16 percent to 11 percent).

Gainers in March-April

In just one month, Zubiri gained 9 percentage points (from 18 percent in March to 27 percent in April), while Roco gained 6 percentage points (from 18 percent to 24 percent).

Within just 12 percentage points (from 57 percent to 45 percent), while Pangilinan lost 9 percentage points (from 48 percent to 39 percent).

Gonzales shed 4 percentage points (from 30 percent to 26 percent), while Osmeña lost 6 percentage points (from 26 percent to 20 percent). Senator Pangilinan, All of them sit on the opposition slate.

The March survey was conducted from March 15 to 16.

The April survey also found that 80 percent of the registered voters said they would "certainly vote" on election Day. — *Reports: Inquirer Research*

SENATORIAL PREFERENCES

	Percentage			Rank				Percentage			Rank		
	Feb	Mar	Apr	Feb	Mar	Apr		Feb	Mar	Apr	Feb	Mar	Apr
Legarda, Loren	34%	38%	38%	3	3	3	Villarosa, Antonio N. T.	12%	13%	14%	13-14	11	11
Villar, Manuel A. Jr.	35%	37%	40%	2	2	2	Gordon, Richard J.	14%	14%	11%	11-14	13-15	13-15
Lacson, Panfilo M.	40%	40%	41%	1	1	1-2	Osmeña, Sergio Tito V.	17%	15%	13%	9-14	12-13	13-15
Pangilinan, Francis N.	57%	48%	39%	1	1	1-2	Ong, Rodolfo Plaza	12%	11%	11%	13-14	13-15	13-15
Escudero, Francisco Joseph G.	16%	18%	24%	7	5	5	Gregorio, Joker C.	7%	7%	10%	15	15	16-18
Recto, Ralph G.	17%	18%	20%	6	5	6	Cayetano, Jennifer P.	8%	8%	9%	15	15	15
Angara, Edgardo J.	27%	28%	33%	13-14	8	7	Ocampo, Adelbert C.	4%	3%	8%	19	17-18	17
Barbers, Jinkee P.	18%	20%	20%	11	10-11	8	Rivera, Jamalul K.	3%	3%	3%	20-22	17-18	19-20
Escudero, Maria Ceferina G.	18%	20%	21%	8	8	8	Bautista, Martin G.	3%	3%	3%	20	20-21	19-20
Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.	18%	19%	20%	9	12-13	10	Lobregat, Oliver D.	3%	3%	3%	20	20-21	19-20
Roxas, Gregorio B.	20%	20%	20%	12	9	11-12	Aquino, Theodore M.	3%	–	3%	20-22	–	20-21
Pimentel III, Aquilino L.	21%	19%	20%	10-14	14	11-12	Bacud, Victor D.	3%	3%	3%	16-17	19-20	20-21
Aquino, Benigno Simeon C.	16%	18%	20%	8-13	10-11	11-12	Sison, Arthur S.	3%	3%	3%	16-17	16-17	20-21
Zubiri, Juan Miguel	18%	19%	27%	10-17	17	14	Echiluz, Antonio L.	3%	3%	3%	16-17	16-17	20-21
Roco, Sonia M.	18%	18%	23%	10-17	18	15	Paredes, Jovencio Jaime III	3%	3%	3%	16-18	16-17	20-21
Montano, Cesar	16%	17%	21%	15-17	15-17	16-17	Jurado, Rolex L.	3%	3%	3%	16-18	16-17	20-21
Estrema, Michael T.	21%	21%	21%	13	13	16-17	Ramos, Samuel L.	3%	3%	3%	16-17	16-17	20-21
Rosales, Alex Henry B.	20%	20%	20%	9-10	12-13	16-18	Ojeda, Eduardo T.	3%	3%	3%	16-17	16-17	20-21
Pichay, Prospero A. Jr.	13%	16%	20%	22	20	19-20	Drop Votes/Undecided	14%	11%	11%			
Magsaysay, Mariano P.	14%	14%	18%	18	18-19	22							

Biggest Gain

Steepest Decline

Gov't to lend ₱34 billion to small businesses

From page B1

Small industries can avail themselves of between ₱1 million and ₱10 million while medium industries can borrow more than ₱10 million, "with no cap but governed by the equity ratio," which is most usually 60:20 after the loan, he said. By loan duration, the rates 7%-8%.

"What's crucial is the track record of the loan applicant," Bonoan-de-said, adding that it's not limiting for applicants to apply through the two state-run Development Corp. (SBCorp.) that oversees the credit facility.

Small enterprises have assets valued at between ₱3 million and ₱15 million, while SV employees or less. Medium enterprises have assets valued at more than ₱15 million up to ₱100 million, and less than 100 to 199 employees.

Bonoan-de said President Macapagal-Arroyo was "moving to address concerns raised by SMEDA," after a survey conducted by the United Nations Asia Business Monitor for 2007 showed that the Philippines and Indonesia were lagging behind in macroeconomic growth.

The 2006 ABM polled 1,200 SME leaders in 11 countries, including 100 in the Philippines, between Nov. 15, 2006 and Jan. 10, 2007.

Sulong program

Bonoan-de said Ms. Arroyo wanted more access to loans by SMEDs through "Sulong," or SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth.

"For 2007, the government will provide another ₱34 billion for loans to SMEDs through the Sulong," he said.

Bonoan-de said that long before the OPS survey, the government had instituted moves, ranging from direct assistance to indirect intervention, to support this sector.

"This assistance is mainly found in the Medium Term Philippine SME Development Plan," he said.

Landbank and DBP

In a phone interview, Bonol Lopez, president and chief operating officer of SB Corp., said he didn't know the exact amount so far drawn from the ₱34 billion fund.

Although SB Corp. has its own loan facility, other GFIs like Landbank and Development Bank of the Philippines and some commercial banks "are participants of the SME program."

As of February 2007, SB Corp. had loan out ₱6.7 billion.

The said confident that we can reach the targets for the year based on the entire ₱34 billion to SMEDs," Lopez said.

He explained that generally, for small shareholders of loans during the first quarter, "it usually shoots up in the third and fourth quarters, when the demand for business capital is high."

Political instrument

Lopez said GFIs were not affected by political infringement, or even otherwise.

Lending out to SMEDs, he said, "is a continuing activity. We don't care about the decline. We're not affected at all by the election time on disbursements."

Asked why, he explained that GFIs had funds of their own, and that the ₱34 billion would not be drawn from the national budget.

"We have no constraints. The only constraint is viability of the applicant—if's not a fly-by-night business. As long as we are it's a viable enterprise, then we will fund the loan, GFIs are already in the line that the quality of the loans are good," he said.

Sustainability

Lopez emphasized that Sulong was not a "fish-out" program.

"Under this administration, we try to ensure the ... sustainability of the enterprises that will secure the continuity of the fund loaned to SMEs," he said.

Bonoan-de said the form of direct assistance to SMEDs may be classified into the following—credit access and guarantees, product development and technology innovations, training and marketing support, advocacy among others.

The plan is designed to help enterprises graduate to the next level of business, and upgrade their productivity and value-added capabilities.

From 2004 to 2006, the national government provided SMEs with ₱92.26 billion in loans through the Sulong program.

Since Sulong's inception in 2005, a total of ₱127.8 billion has been lent out, according to Bonoan-de.

Gringo says sorry for coup attempts

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO Honasan yesterday said he was sorry for the coup attempts that he had planned and launched against the Arroyo administration.

"I am sorry for the methodology. People were hurt," Honasan said in an interview over the ABS-CBN news channel.

Talking separately over GMA 7, Honasan said his means of trying to find reforms in the late 1980s "might have inspired and encouraged uncontrolled use of means for change."

"And for that I'm sorry."

Honasan said that after he was elected senator in 1995, he realized that changes in society may be attained through peaceful and lawful means.

In a separate interview with the Inquirer, Honasan said he was involved in only two coup attempts—the first in August 1987 and the second in December 1989.

"But people are attributing to me more than those two," he said.

Honasan, who landed in the Top 12 in the previous survey rounds, lost 10 percentage points (from 30 percent to 20 percent). He is now outside the circle of probable winners.

Others who lost ground included Villar (7 percentage points (from 52 percent to 45 percent) and actor Richard Gomez, 5 percentage points (from 16 percent to 11 percent).

Gainers in March-April

In just one month, Zubiri gained 9 percentage points (from 18 percent in March to 27 percent in April), while Roco gained 6 percentage points (from 18 percent to 24 percent).

Within just 12 percentage points (from 57 percent to 45 percent), while Pangilinan lost 9 percentage points (from 48 percent to 39 percent).

Gonzales shed 4 percentage points (from 30 percent to 26 percent), while Osmeña lost 6 percentage points (from 26 percent to 20 percent). Senator Pangilinan, All of them sit on the opposition slate.

The March survey was conducted from March 15 to 16.

The April survey also found that 80 percent of the registered voters said they would "certainly vote" on election Day. — *Reports: Inquirer Research*

METRO
Citizen's Call
Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a salesgirl make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street screams your day?
- Street flooding forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up to arms against the installation of an unwanted tower?
- Away by a little known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Too much to patronize?
- Fed up with noisy and fouling neighbors?
- Is there an everyday eye sore in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful feats on your way to work?

JUST TEXT [illegible]
0918-8985566
P.S. [illegible]
INQUIRER

AFP tearing down Trillanes posters, bet's camp claims

A SPOKESPERSON FOR OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Antonio Trillanes IV said yesterday they had received information the Armed Forces of the Philippines had directed soldiers to remove and destroy the banners junior military officers' posters that had been putup over ordinary citizens.

Senator Rivera said the information was passed to Trillanes via text messages after AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon declared a few days ago that campaigning was prohibited in military camps along with candidates' posters.

"We have information the AFP intelligence chief has directed that all posters of Antonio Trillanes were indiscriminately destroyed," Rivera said.

The text of the memo from military intelligence reportedly said, "Pertaining to the ongoing campaign of various candidates for the forthcoming national and local elections, it is reported that all supporters of Trillanes will take advantage by posting his campaign posters particularly campaign materials made to show the public that the AFP is supporting said officer for a higher post.

"Directive remove all posters of said officer under your command to clear the public the AFP is not supporting/endorsing the candidacy of military officers," the memo cited.

Rivera said the directive was an obvious attempt to sabotage Trillanes' bid for a Senate seat.

"The posters and other campaign materials are very few and they were donated by people who support Sonny. We don't even have enough posters to put up in the designated common posting areas in the country compared to other candidate, reportedly those belonging to the administration party," Rivera said.

Logistics and media exposure are serious issues in Trillanes' campaign.

Until recently, Trillanes had been kept from talking to the media to help his campaign. He is being held for his involvement in the Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

Surveys have shown him trailing dismally and his 76 ads have started clearing only recently with less than 30 days to go before the May 14 elections.

"If the military will remove or destroy our posters, what will happen to us? That is not fair," Rivera said. Supporters distributed a

TWO ROCOS BETTER THAN ONE
Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate Sonia Roco (center) poses with vendors during a caravan campaign outing through Davao to refute claims she was joined by her late husband Sen. Raul Roco's nephew, actor Bembol Roco (the fifth on right). Roco has made human colonization for Filipinos her advocacy.

General Santos, South Cotabato deserve more, says religious

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT A FEW VOTERS IN GENERAL SANTOS City and South Cotabato say convicted boxer Manny Pacquiao's biggest—and probably only—downside is the fact that he is close to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a Catholic leader in the district has said.

Iglesia Malasakitang's door open to Pacquiao 24/7, the voters know money sourced from the congressional Priority Assistance Development Fund, or pork barrel, would come easy, said Bro. Manuel de Jesus, head of the Manuel Brethren of the Philippines and a minister of caution.

The cutter would not be used of incumbent Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Pacquiao rival and a consistent critic of the President. Her stomach anti-administration stand has cost her district plenty in terms of investments and infrastructure.

"That's basically the options the people in the district are facing," De Leon told the Inquirer yesterday.

But De Leon said he people deserved more than victory offering an express lane to Malacañang and a confederate who appeared to be more preoccupied with extending the country's leader.

Leaders with vision

"We need leaders who have the vision, competence and charisma to bring about development through unity and cooperation by the people," he said.

Dr. Leon heads the "Pinoy Bilanggo Ko Movement," a church initiative that issues Filipinos to return to the basic values of honesty, integrity and cleanliness in their everyday life.

The group has released a set of criteria to help Gen Sua voters and others around the country choose their leaders. The checklist is being distributed among voters.

"A leader is a hands-on public servant willing to reach out to the constituency beyond the call of duty and who has a passion for excellence," reads one criterion.

"A leader does not have discriminated ten, does not. He/She is able to listen to everyone through participatory management. He/She does not compromise his/her decision, not by others even his/her own political affiliations."

Dr. Leon said candidates like Pacquiao and Custodio should be seen more in the light of these criteria and not just for who gave to bring home the "pork" to his/her.

Besides, focusing the political debate on one candidate's closeness to the Palace and another's estrangement from it would consistently reverse the issue, he said.

He said Custodio shouldn't necessarily be judged for joining the chance for the career of Mr. Arroyo's two years ago. "She had a point, too, that the President should be held accountable in the face of allegations that she had betrayed."

Myopic proposition

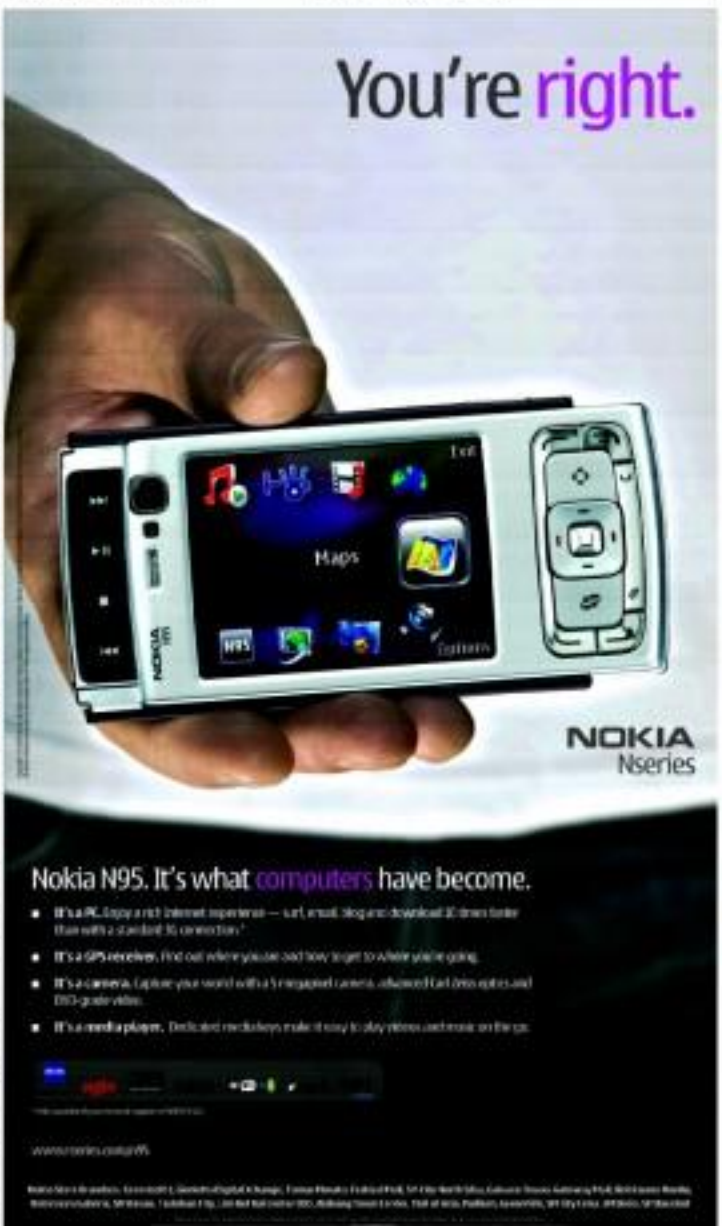
But random encounters with Gentos folk—on cycle drivers, market vendors, street cops, housewives—reveal that their choices had yet to transcend such a myopic proposition, De Leon said.

"In them, whoever is closest to the Palace gets the money more easily," he said. "And where there's pork, there are new roads and hospitals."

Add to the issues that of a physician in his life who is convinced that Pacquiao could unseat the similarly popular Custodio when ranking related and last term.

"It will you the truth, nothing much has really changed in the 21 years that Gen Sua has been here in power," the doctor who sought anonymity told the Inquirer.

The doctor, a resident of Gentos, said the absence of palpable development in the impressed district was no big secret. He said his family entered in the area in 1914.



GMA OKs bird sanctuary in Parañaque

From page A1

She also ordered the Department of Education to incorporate global warming and climate change in the science subjects in public schools to make the young more aware of the importance of preserving the environment.

Ms Arroyo issued the directives during the belated celebration of Earth Day at Rizal Park in Malacañang yesterday.

In a still unconfirmed proclamation, she designated the lagoons of Las Piñas and Parañaque covering 175.308 ha as a "critical habitat and eco-tourism area" as part of her "Green Philippines" agenda. She signed the proclamation in the course of her speech on Earth Day, observed every April 22.

The protected area is meant to "support combined populations of the globally threatened Chinese egret and the Philippine duck along with 27 species of other rare and near-endemic species of waterbirds."

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said that the establishment of the haven for migratory birds would not put the population around the two cities and the country at risk of the dreaded avian flu.

"We know with the advent of development in the Manila bay area it is important that we preserve a certain portion for these migratory birds. Otherwise we don't know where they will move when they migrate from the north," he said.

"This area ... will of course be monitored by our personnel from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)."

A boost to tourism

Reyes said the designation of the bird sanctuary would also boost tourism.

"(This) is good for eco-tourism because these birds come between October and February every year and tourists, they come in and watch these birds," Reyes told reporters.

He said the coastal areas in these two cities have been home to these migratory birds which come from as far as Siberia, China and all the way down to Australia.

The President said the declaration of the bird sanctuary was part of a four-pronged environmental program dubbed Green Philippines.

To promote this environment, she said her administration had programs on reforestation, preservation of coral reefs and mangroves, ridding the land and air of pollution and energy independence."

She said the Inquirer would become part this year of the government agencies promoting protection of the environment.

'Green Philippines' plan

"Today, I am directing the Department of Education to incorporate subjects dealing with global warming and climate change in the public school curriculum subjects. We want our young to be aware of global warming and other climate change phenomena," she said, "because we want to press ahead up in their generation with a massive Green Philippines Environmental Plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in education.

Ms Arroyo said that as part of the program to protect soils and waterways, her administration sought to establish national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research.

The proclamation mandates that any reclamation activity shall not impede the ecological functions of the lagoons of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Eco-tourism Area and its mangroves, salt marshes and tidal areas as breeding, feeding and roosting place for marine and terrestrial wildlife.

Reclamation activities should also be done in a "way that would help restore and enrich shellfish and fish productivity."

It also mandates that a minimum 25 percent of the Manila Bay area reclamation zones be set aside for the wildlife habitats.

The President said economic progress should not be achieved "at the banks of the poor and at the expense of the environment."

"No nation can aspire to become modern without thinking of the environment," Ms Arroyo said.

THIS may have been declared an avian sanctuary but the long-term survival of this marshland is by no means certain. Right in front of her is a piece of plastic, the symbol of environmental degradation.

PHOTOS BY GREGORIO DIMALANTA

GMOA find what appears to be cranes in the urban jungle that is Metro Manila. What is not readily apparent in the picture are the ugly sights and smells of pollution.

Homicide raps readied vs woodcarver

From page A1

witnesses, all minors, in the case. "The three boys saw the legal Campbell being carried by an individual," he said, adding the man was later identified as Bernardo.

He said Bantigue was now in hiding. "Maybe he is guilty, that is why he is now hiding," Gonzales said.

He reported that police had recovered the alleged weapon used—a bloodstained pole made of hardwood that villagers saw in possession of Bantigue.

GMA television said a prosecutor used in digging the grave and the bloodstained parts of the suspect had been found in the woodcarver's Bataol home.

Investigators also found Campbell's camera, umbrella and two pairs of sunglasses along with some coins scattered about 25 meters from the shallow grave in a dry creek in Bataol where Campbell's body was recovered on April 16, said Gonzales.

A police autopsy showed multiple blows to the head with a blunt instrument killed Campbell. There were injuries to her arms indicating she tried to block the blows, police said.

Locals criticize police

Police officials came under heavy fire from locals after Bantigue told reporters on the day Campbell's body was found that the American volunteer was a victim of homicide and that the suspect was a carver of the mountain village of Banaue town.

Some said the human police were now attacking the woodcarver and had limited up police visibility in the area after the incident. He said investigators were looking into "robbery-with-homicide-or-rape-with-homicide."

Story: Nico Deguzman, a US freelance spokesperson, said Campbell's remains would be brought home to her family in Berlin, Virginia, as soon as legal requirements, such as a death certificate, are completed.

Killing 'isolated'

The death of Campbell—a freelance journalist who had reported for The New York Times and other media organizations—left 116 other Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines. She had been teaching English at the Divine Word College in Albay province's Legazpi city, southeast of Manila, since December 2006.

Peace Gov. Glenn Prudencio described Campbell's case as "isolated" and the first death to be recorded since the Board ever volunteers were opened to tourists.

"The peace and order here has always been good despite the heavy influx of tourists. People here are good, they always warmly welcome tourists coming here," he said.

He said officials were studying the possibility of imposing curfew hours to cover tourists visiting the terrains. He expressed hope that the Campbell incident would not adversely affect the arrival of tourists here.

Local and foreign tourists visiting the famed Ifugao rice terraces said they would return and encourage others to come to this mountain town despite Campbell's death.

"(The Campbell incident) is not a concern at all. I would definitely come back here, and I would tell other tourists in my country to come here," said Dr. Klaus Gunnig, 43, an anaesthesiologist from Germany.

"It may happen in any part of the world. It could happen to me even if I am in my own neighborhood," said John Schmid, who resides in Tucson, Arizona, refusing statements by the Ifugaos by local and foreign tourists.

With reports from Christine D. Avendaño, AP

THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood[3] is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood[3] is the young Filipino—unplugged.

Featuring essays by:

Ces Drilon · Ricky Lo · Conrado de Quiros · Jessica Soho · Ellen Tordesillas · Jose Javier Reyes · Jose Luis Lacson Jr. · Lourdes Portugal · Jose Luis Lacson Sr. · Lourdes Portugal

'Travel warnings a matter of course'

By Christine O. Avendaño

A NEW WAVE OF TRAVEL ADVISORIES warning western tourists against traveling to Mindanao restored yesterday the usual downplay from Palace officials worried that it would affect the summer tourist traffic.

"Nothing new, just reminders to those warnings," said Vice President Noli de Castro.

But Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., who is overseeing an intensified offensive against suspected terrorists in Jolo, said "it was better that people are advised against going to places where there may have danger than none at all."

Even here in the country Ebdane said the authorities advise Filipinos "not to enter areas. We go to Jolo in some parts of the Zamboanga peninsula where there are skirmishes between government forces and Moro insurgents."

The United States, Australia and Canada issued new advisories over the weekend warning their citizens against traveling to Mindanao, where al-Qaida-linked militants or newly inbreaded arson mothers, citing information that a terrorist group was planning to carry out bomb attacks over the April summer days."

"The attacks may be imminent and could occur at any time, anywhere in Mindanao," the Australian advisory stressed.

The US advisory told Americans to avoid public gatherings, including a national sports festival in Davao del Sur on Sept 22-29.

Canada advised its citizens to stay away from political gatherings and to exercise extreme caution in areas frequented by foreigners. Confirming reports suggesting terrorist threats to Westerners and Western interests, "including possible bomb attacks in Manila and other key cities."

The defense chief said the country should not be affected by travel advisories because it was only natural for countries to warn their citizens and keep them from harm's way when there are threats.

"It's better that there are advisories because if there is some and something happens, then they have somebody to blame... here if there is an advisory and still you go there and get victimized, you was or another it's your own fault," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Ebdane said he was meeting with contractors and other agencies concerned to discuss the security of government infrastructure projects.

Six of the workers abducted and beheaded last week were maintenance road in Sulu. The contractor Abu hostage, the target of a military offensive there, reportedly demanded a P5-million ransom for their release.

"We cannot provide security to each and everyone but we are coming up with a new arrangement to prevent a repeat occurrence," Ebdane told reporters. With report by Jhon Michael Lim Elias and Cynthia Balana

'Nicole' has new job but hasn't moved on

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SHE HAS SIGNED A NEW JOB BUT HAS NOT moved on.

The lawyer of ex-SSC rape victim "Nicole" said her client has been unable to live a normal life because the custody issue OVER US Marines Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, who was convicted of the crime, remained unresolved.

"After [crossing] the border to the country," lawyer Evalyn Ursua said, refusing to disclose the location and names of Nicole's job.

"She's trying her best to live a normal life but she still feels betrayed by her own government, which directly associated with the [case]. She's also considering family to the custody of the US Embassy," Ursua said.

Nicole is a management accounting graduate and was running the family-owned canteen in Zamboanga City when she went on holiday in November 2005 at the Subic Freeport where she was raped.

Nicole filed charges against her US fiancé, but only son, Smith, was found guilty by a Makati Regional Trial Court in December 2006.

The three other Marines—Chad Carpenter, Dominic Duplechin and Keith Silkwood—have since left the Philippines.

Ursua said Nicole wanted fresh phase in the custody of the Philippine government.

"We do not even have any updates regarding Smith's present condition at the US Embassy," the lawyer said, explaining that only Philippine government agencies such as the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Foreign Affairs had access to Smith.

According to Ursua, Nicole has declined to talk to the media.

"She does not want to be followed by cameras or interviewed anymore, but she is grateful to reporters for not giving up on her case," the lawyer said.

In February, the Supreme Court dismissed Nicole's petition to invalidate the provisions in the Visiting Forces Agreement that prescribe a one-year period for the completion of judicial proceedings against United States servicemen facing criminal charges in the Philippines.

In the decision issued in June 2006, Nicole also assumed the validity of the VFA provision allowing American servicemen accused of a crime to remain under US custody until the completion of the judicial proceedings.

But the Supreme Court did not rule on the matter, saying the issue had already been raised by Nicole in an earlier petition in January and would be taken up when the first petition was dismissed.

In questioning the one-year prescription period for the completion of judicial proceedings, Nicole said this infringed on the Supreme Court's power to promulgate rules concerning pleadings, practice and procedure in all courts.

Comelec OKs ads on the Internet

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS paved the way for digital media advertising in the May 14 midterm election after it approved the use of the Internet as a new form of campaigning during the campaign period.

The Comelec en banc last week approved the petition of Cyberkids Inc., a company offering digital media advertising, to allow the display of candidates' political ads on the screens of 20,000 computers installed in the company's 1,200 Internet cafés nationwide, in Resolution No. 7868, the Comelec noted that digital media advertising was in line with the poll body's modernization efforts "to provide voters with access to information and relevant election materials" that would enable them to make an informed choice come election day.

The Comelec said the new form of political advertisement was at the same time an environment-friendly form of campaigning that would "minimize, if not eliminate, waste materials during and after the election period."

Nikko Dizon

idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
Floor Mounted
Free Installation!
Call 243-3918,241-4721,8910248218

People's Choice
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
GOLD 2006

generics
wholesale & retail

PILOT
Smooth
Ads assurance
for writing
for hundreds
G-2
BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAAR, INC.
27 D. LINGUES ST., SAN JUAN, MANILA
TEL NOS. 361-3040 to 49 fax 362-5871
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

IWATA
MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for COMMON BUSINESS
P39,500
HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 1500 PSI, 600LMH
Tel. Nos.: 8924338 • 8924339 • 8924096

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
2nd Week of Easter
Weekday of Ordinary Season
Jn 6:30-35

Cosmetic Surgery, New York-Style
Now open in Manila, the New York Anti-Aging Centers offer world-class cosmetic procedures at affordable prices.
- Breast augmentation or reduction
- Liposuction / Tummy Tuck
- Genital rejuvenation, tightening, relaxation and hymen repair
- Eyelid surgery & Eyebag removal
- Rhinoplasty (Nose)
- Chin or Lip augmentation
- Facelift/Browlift
- Other cosmetic surgical procedures
NEW YORK ANTI-AGING CENTERS
Look Young • Feel Young • Live Young
Call or visit now!
914-6888 • 386-7331
FREE Consultation
25% Discount
All treated with leading plastic surgeons in New York, U.S.A.

PROtech
HIGH SECURITY
SATURN SAFE
NOW
Controlled by LOCKOUT free electronic/ mechanical locks
FOR BANKS, PAWNSHOPS AND JEWELERS
DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.
PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

VOL. XXVI, NO. 135 INQUIRER OPINION

Theological clarity

EDITORIAL

IN PUTTING LIMBO OUT OF THE ORBIT OF THE theology of salvation and expunging it from the catechism, has the Roman Catholic Church exposed us a share its claim of being "the same yesterday, today and tomorrow"? Has the Church put its claim of immutability to a limbo?

No, says leading theologians, such as Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, rector of the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary, where more than 70 percent of Philippine bishops have studied the ecclesiastical sciences. In the first place, limbo has never been part of official Church teaching, says the Catholic University of Nijmegen-trained Filipino Dominican. "Limbo was never really part of the Church magisterium." The concept, he added, was part of the common teaching of the Church, but was never a dogma.

In its study "The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Baptism," the International Theological Commission (ITC), the theological advisory arm of the Pope, says the concept of limbo is "an unduly restrictive view of salvation." Although like the medieval concept of limbo, the view of ITC is also a "theologumenon," or theological concept, according to Timoner, the fact that Pope Benedict XVI gave the go-signal for its publication means there's some progress. "The progress is the categorical statement that there's no limbo," he said.

Accordingly, the Church has always considered unbaptized children as covered by the salvific power of Christ. "If the law of prayer is the law of belief, then the Church hasn't really believed that those who weren't baptized go to limbo," Timoner said. He explained that unbaptized babies are among the 18 special concerns or intentions of the Good Friday benediction. The Church also holds funeral rites for the unbaptized.

The progressive view appears to have been paved by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, which dropped the Church's rigid claim that "there's no salvation outside the Church," as well as the Catechism of Pope John Paul II in 1994, which doesn't mention limbo and says the Church "can only entrust them [unbaptized children] to the mercy of God."

The catechism itself was under the direct supervision of then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who headed the Vatican's doctrinal watchdog, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and who's now Pope Benedict XVI, and crafted under the editorship of another Dominican, Fr. Christoph Schonborn, now cardinal-archbishop of Vienna. So there has been a consistent history of achieving greater theological clarity on the concept of limbo all along.

One must also remember that limbo was a medieval Scholastic improvement on the view of St. Augustine, perhaps the greatest chief doctrinal father of the Church after St. Paul and the Apostles, that the unbaptized, because of original sin, go to hell. The Schoolmen or medieval philosophers rejected this view as, like ITC said, unduly restrictive and even harsh (babies are innocent, and it's no fault of their own that they haven't been baptized, so why should they be made to suffer the fires of hell?), and thereby theologically conceived of a place where, as Timoner put it, "there's eternal bliss but no beatific vision."

Even Thomas Aquinas, the other chief doctrinal determiner of the Church after Augustine, never manifested limbo, but seemed to have opened up the possibility that unbaptized babies could be sanctified through the Eucharist by God, as when, in the Summa Theologiae (Part III, Question 68, Article 11), he rejected the baptism of babies still in the womb of their mothers, saying "they are subject to the action of God, in Whose sight they live, as an, by a kind of privilege, they receive the grace of sanctification."

The struggle to achieve greater clarity has also been fueled, according to the ITC document, because of the urgent pastoral questions. Many infants today are born to parents who are not practicing Catholics, and many others are unborn victims of abortion, it said.

In short, the removal of limbo from the theological books is a product of thoughtful reflection based on considerations of charity and the liberating hope engendered by Christ's resurrection and offer of salvation for all. The fact that Filipino Catholics have eagerly made the ITC document an agenda for absorbed conversation should indicate that they not only have potential for theological sophistication, but also have the commitment and devotion to active Christian humanism.

Publisher Isaac Rivera
Editor in Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Salazar
Associate Editor Ninotchka S. Rosca
Opinion Editor Juan C. Mercado
Editorial Consultant Veronica Domingo
Chief Photographer Raul G. Gonzalez
Art & Design Director Lino A. G. Villaseñor
Board Chairman Hiber K. Perez
President Antonina Perez Salazar
Executive Vice President Dino O. Nicolas
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Susan S. Roxas
Vice President Felix B. Olaya
Advertising Director Lourdes Sison S. Yap

Press Alzheimer's

VIEWPOINT

Juan C. Mercado

HE MADE PEOPLE PRESS FREEDOM MY cause," wrote Jose Ayroso, the former publisher of the "Press Under Surveillance."

Terrorists spurred new security measures, notes the World Association of Newspapers (WAN). And some are implemented well after terrorists, like Abu Sayyaf, have been "neutralized." Freedom of the press?

Journalists have got mixed feelings about the remembrance of this threat. The failed assassination attempts on Inquirer correspondents Jacinto Mallari, followed by the killing of Carmelo Palacios of the government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

Nicolai Mallari later born Hernicio Jr. 37 under heroic names that mirrored after the dictatorship's collapse? Take Abraham Espena (reportedly engaged in the Gen. Ver's Feb. 22, 1986 Mobutu-style transfer of Islamic Broadcasting Victoria Sr., 36? Or was that Ferdinand Reyes of Diyaryo Filipino Ferdinand Reyes Jr.?

Political fronts, meanwhile, muddle this memorial: re-called Author Or Ebony Lord stories, they rush shrill political statements to mail Freedom Mausoleum dynasty for every study.

Journalists' groups seem accusatory and reject feeling framed into roles of either dissidents. They mark nevertheless as escalating gory trend, from legal violence to street gunmen. A "culture of impunity" prevails. So, impertinents are rarely brought and there is therefore no one free.

In 1999, WAN's body count was 26. The year after, the International Press Institute reported 32. And the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists reported in 2006 that 57 were salvaged in work-related incidents, 14 arrests by guerrillas, 348 subpoenas, etc. don't qualify.

This month's title, on the death of former Chief Justice Commercial Jones refuses Raoul Fujiwara to Tarnacon would help set this issue in motion. With his publisher brother Quintin, Raoul was ranged in the May 1970 to firebrand Marcos' attempt to bring the press to heel. It was no far back for most of today's journalists who are barely mindful late's "Sally Journeys"?

Ex-Interdepartmental Alzheimers, here's a brief summary:

President Marcos sought to depict Raul and Quintan for "spreading communist propaganda." On May 6, 1970, defense lawyer Juan Quimson said Jones' troops never heard among them nine Manila Chronicle Press Club by false phone calls. Marcos' agents wounded Quintin and Raul leaves on the drive to spin for Jones.

Night of May 4, and into the dawn of May 5, Raul's program with, "Armies, stood kneeling as the gate of Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes' house. He had shelter and protection of the CIA editor and stormed in and his good boy." The door remained shuttered.

Dawn of May 5, the two were deported as early as Taipei on an Air Swiss C-47. After a four-hour "hold" on Aug. 16, 1972, the Taiwan Garrison Command summoned Quintin to two years. Raul got three years. Due to worldwide protests, they were moved into a "probationary arrest."

In his Manila Chronicle op-ed veteran account of "How the Marriages Were Made," Raymundo Rosa writes: "It was a combination of Fidel Ramos, Enrile's "Italians in Rome" and Klee in Wonderland.... The Sayings admitted they published fabricated Press and denied Press in communist reports, put in Taipei—the Philippines, where this is a normal everyday procedure. The admission was interpreted as a confession for spreading communist propaganda."

"The Sayings were found guilty of publishing Western news agency reports... both asserted full responsibility for whatever Chinese Communist News published. There is only one description for these two men: Dr. Fujiwara (Phil) have faulted. The Sayings appeared that Manila and Taipei conditioned would not snuff out press freedom... it was your voice" was joined or be a newspaperman."

Candido Tinio published in Free Klaro, who represented 8%, stated that "a military tribunal dealt with charges of alleged offenses committed by civilians in what [seem to] ". And but, you're belonging and I'm not that it was courageous mind. It was a private field of inquiry before only under the aim of the place where the crime was allegedly committed. Jaime Arroyo and Juan Quijano, Sabugo wrote, defended the two pro bono and once again their own funds to ensure the case journalist would be represented.

Filipino reporters who denounced the killings and harried trial included Teodoro Locsin Sr. and Jr., Napoleon Rama, Quijano de Manila, Max Soliven, Alfredo Saury, Armando Ocampo, Luis Beltran, Nicholas Pimentel Jr.—as well as the economist, Times and other politicians.

Canada and the US offered sanctuary for journalists the Philippines around like this. And Soliven was the director of Nieman Fellowship.

Quintin died in the US. And Raul's family will scatter his ashes in the Pacific Ocean "to live and touch all the places he called home—China, Philippines and Canada."

Filipino Journalism is an appropriate time to re-read Raul's "Acknowledgements," published with the book "The Case of the Missing Brothers," in other journeys for tomorrow's journalists. Words were people bonds to great freedom.

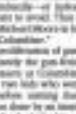
"Marcos decided to use the powers with arrests against Quintin and myself, believing we were the weakest link in the Philippine press," Raul wrote. "During our years trial, [we] encountered hilarious Kafka situations [we] encountered hilarious Kafka situations barely substituted that his "task" was to pressure the press to submit to whims and wishes of the men in power."

He went on: "Instead of being cowed, the journalists fought back ferociously and the intensity of the international press response forced Marcos to release. Led by Joseph Tydeo Sioco... the press proved that no one here might suppress the jaws for a time ... but will, in the long run, prevail over power to overthrow tyrannical rule."

(E-mail: jcmercado@mail.com)

Ghosts of Columbine

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THE PEOPLE OF CHI SEEING AND SAYS HE was pathologically anti-social. Both of Dutch German parents who immigrated to the US in the early 1900s, he never fitted into the world he grew up in.

He was quiet and short. In a questionnaire to school that asked, "Who are you?" he answered with a question mark. A perfect answer, from biologists, for what he would turn out to be: a solitary juggling and revolving puzzle.

He kept to himself in class, wearing dark sunglasses, never uttering a word; he never made eye contact with people, but for most everyone in the campus, he wasn't a genre threat, he was a relative nonentity who just wasn't there, in every sense of the phrase. Sure and then, he gave notice he did exist, such as when he stalked a couple of girls, who reported the incident to the police but did not feel sufficiently oppressed to press charges.

But Chi was full of rage. It showed in his writings. It wasn't just that they were full of violence—just one line for a play he wrote had several students stabbing and murdering a teacher who had sexually had heard thrust, it was that, in one teacher said, they were full of nonsense, it was the spirit of nonsense in them that animated the stories, not the mayhem per se, though the mayhem itself involved situations and kinds of violence that have been fantasy staples of boys.

Chi's rage would not be confined to fiction; it would swell inside him and burst out in one murderous explosion. And leave 33 dead including Chi, in the end.

Everyone has secrets and anonymous about the tragedy in Virginia Tech, and this profile of Chi has been on the forefront. What makes for a crucial killer or mass murderer? What makes people who are psychologically troubled snap?

I do think there remains an important and help in part to explain the unexplainable. The random acts of violence that are rampant nowadays are the products of individuals, specifically of individuals massively impacted psychically. Psychology does play a part in solving these horrifying mysteries. But there is a more

parent explanation for them, one that leapfrogs from psychology to sociology that remarkably many Americans, intellectuals and authority figures alike, almost deterministically—of individual pathologies—seem to want to avoid. Here is the explanation offered by Michael Moore in his documentary "Bowling for Columbine."

That explanation is the proliferation of guns in the US and more importantly the gun-fetish that goes with it. The country of Columbine is steeped unconsciously by two lads who were on a shooting rampage before turning their guns on themselves, was not done by an insane person. It was not done by kids who had a history of being picked on and who thus developed a profound hatred for the world. It was done by kids who were also steeped in a culture of guns and violence, who furnished those hijacking planes and crashing them into the sea. And who had very easy access to weapons of mankind. It was mass destruction.

Last week, The New York Times featured the silence of politicians over the lack of any effective gun control in the country. But it might as well have been talking about "The Simpsons," hardly anyone ever human for the carnage that beyond the usual calls for prayers and silence, there's no sense these days for a politician, particularly one running for president, to get in to the dark business of even talking about the runaway gun problem."

It is the business of the gun lobby, the powerful gun lobby in the US, a lobby as powerful as oil, or any industry for that matter. It is the gun lobby that has such time they are proposed, "the gun lobby cracks up to whip in Washington." Truly, as it does and about global warming, it is the bottom thing in the world to violate someone unnecessary something when his self-interest makes him see reason to undermanners.

But the proliferation of guns is just part of the problem. Moore goes further to expose a worse lens, which is the gun fetish, the philosophic culture, or lifestyle, or all of the above, that makes owning... and watching... guns not just a necessity but a virtue. Moore suggests that the more subtle pervasive duty. A group of unarmed women are in one suburb explosive say the latest, running it their time to carry arms to defend themselves and their loved ones from thieves, but there is no loving distinction of time.

The problem, though, as Moore brilliantly shows, is what their concept of threat is. One's notion of it may be extreme—indeed frightening—but it isn't too far off from the kinds of messages American incredibly utilized populations perceives.

What characterizes this philosophy, or culture, or lifestyle isn't just its sense of normality or capacity for violent fantasy, yet unlike a religion of this sense kind. It is its sullen mean-spiritedness, as Steinbeck toward the "unwell"—in the sense of an aberrant, and perverse, pond. But unlike Chi's hatred of rich kids and their indulgent ways which he proposed to be done with violence, the hatred of others in this case, it is that mind-boggling resistance that attends the sinners, not the incident of dead or the blood that stickles on the floor of classrooms, however that makes the sinners feel enough as it does.

In the case of Columbine, too, there were warnings and lamentations and calls to understand the madness to make sure it never happened again. There was much Hegel pondering, which sent to disdain the lukewarm of it each time associated with devil worship. But the thing happened again, the devil came back. Or as it seemed: for the devil never really went away, it just dormant in the deepest part of America, waiting to spring back into action like a dreaded inextinguishable fire.

It has like a snake, in its heart.

Three weeks to go

PETE THREE PEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE MAY 1-5 electoral, the campaigns of both Team Inter and the Genuine Opposition have entered their final stretch. This final stretch will see the supreme importance of adequate funding and a political machinery—the factors that will spell the difference between winning and losing. Given 70 percent of the country GO has no machinery, but it seems that its tactic now is to try to link up with local groups in the administration confirm that are rivals of other groups within the same political party. Take the case of Ogbia where Timi Mopelola promised to Labar officials that even if he did not the Goodness of Ekeinjare ensured the GO team around. Go candidates are sensing the disillusionment, local allies to include them in the political campaign in their states.

With regard to funding, there is well all modalities on both sides, but TE's advantage is beginning to show in the way it appears to outspend its opponents. Financially candidates that have generously had more than the others, in that they will now whether in the division of the Magic 11. In whatever machinery means I contained that, and some Labor staffers estimate it will go to 15 million naira per candidate. Some GO candidates like TE even some GO candidates who need to be true ahead.

One TE candidate who realizes the importance of organization is Miguel Ishiri, who has surprised party veterans with his excellent organizational machinery. Ishiri has also started addressing constituent conferences after he made a promise to do so during the party's Good Governance Meetings, the theme series, to study the most popular candidate of TE and to his crowd driven but colleagues advise him constantly to improve his machinery as it could constitute his undoing. Informing, especially among the shrinking female populace, interests.

On the GO side, Francis Ewudem is capturing ahead of his colleagues on the strength of the campaign machinery put in place by Ogbia Ogbia Critics, and few would be surprised to see him succeeding Manuel Villar, while Abat Peter

Political Tidbits

Belinda Obinero-Cimmons

Governor, count INEC's darling, is now dropping his usual bold stance on the issue of the party's staff hunting Commons as well as Labor Personnel EL Senator, one they enable that there are candidates already have a short and a lie then, respectively, in the future, people see, a the summer sing their names.

I found the first two installments of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's series on "Fertilizer Fund Scam" very interesting. The budget is some years, which appeared in Philippine Star, a lot was based against Congress. It did not also seek to give things in the proper perspective, wrapping the reader to think it was single handedly responsible for the scam. The fact is that the 14th Congress for the 10 billion peso fertilizer fund was the smallest compared with the 11th Congress for the 40 billion peso fertilizer fund. The latter Congress was also the most corrupt Congress in our history. It not only funded scams but also institutionalized them. Worse, it passed the budget in record time

A question for gun clubs

THERE'S A LINE THAT MEMBERS OF gun clubs often use to defend gun ownership. "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." Don't blame the gun, blame the guy pulling the trigger.

So when Virginia Tech senior student Cho Seung-hui killed 32 people with a legally obtained 9mm Glock pistol, don't blame the weapon, or the laws that allowed him to buy such weapons, or the gun dealers who sold these deadly tools in the first place — no, blame the obviously psychotic 23-year old.

The sensible wish that logic is true a necessary assertion unless wouldn't have been able to take those many lives with a Swiss knife, or a machete, or even a shotgun. The only way one man can kill so many so quickly, is with a gun — in Cho's case, a Glock he bought last March.

But this gap-given a psychological test before being sold the gun to determine his capacity to use such a dangerous weapon responsibly? The answer is no. In Virginia, it was to over the age of 18 — Cho was — all he has to do is pass a criminal background check and be certain a panel.

LETTERS

It shouldn't be that easy. So, rational laws a right to possess themselves. But why — precisely — should there be any limit at? Where road stop, democrats, or do pressure pushes them over the edge of reason?

There's a question the students of Virginia Tech — and those in other universities in the United States — are asking right now. And it's a question we in the Philippines should be asking ourselves as well.

—JOB M. TAYLOR
Unit 803, Charleston Place,
8888 building,
20 Amorsolo St.,
and E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd.,
San Juan City

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo raises hands of TU candidates during a campaign rally in Legazpi.

Will candidates of Team Unity oppose abolition of Senate?

On giving up coco levy funds to Cocofed

THIS IS IN REACTION TO MY ARTICLE titled "Government must deal on fair terms" (Business, 17 April).

Finance Secretary Jesus said "the government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, was finalizing and had already obtained important basis" with Cocofed, coconut farmers' group which he later named as the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (Philcofed).

What as much as the 3.4 million small coconut farmers who have been languishing in poverty while wallowing in luxury while wasting to benefit from their own levy contributions. Decided and its officials, like Eduardo Cojuangco, are responsible in the coco levy mess is done — not a farmer is. Indeed Mendoza cast it and "Everybody in the Philippines is to be blamed" for the problem. Cojuangco said that most of the respondents in those cases to settle out of court especially as owners must withdraw later pay them on the dotted line.

A palatable coconut butter who is made to understand the real issues behind the coco levies will find it hard to accept the out-of-court settlements. It is not the farmers who are to blame. They are the victims of coco levy funds to those who were charged with plunder ing them, in the name of the coconut farmers.

There also mentioned that the compromise between Cojuangco group will not contest the government suit 14 pieces of SMC shares held by government; and the proceeds will be channeled to a trust fund to support of the coconut industry. The farmers might have wanted that these SMC Cojuangco had repeatedly declared since 2002 — in public statements and court pleadings — that he has no interest and has no claim to the government held (3, 19 SMC shares. So Cojuangco still had his opposition to the court's decision declaring the funds public and owned by government, in trust for all the coconut farmers. Moreover, once the PCGG has conclusively denied having any details or claim to compromise Cojuangco.

The enlightened income farmers have repeatedly demanded the so-called compromise settlement by the PCGG, which claims to have acquired the imprimatur of the Supreme Court agreement precisely because of the absence of the terms and conditions governing the agreement. So far the only detail floated is on how much share Cocofed and each of the corresponding organizations will get from the trust fund.

In sum, the government proposed compromise agreement on the coco levies is really apolitical compromise (coco "into win solution" designed to benefit the administration, Cojuangco and the Cojuangco family, but not those who actually contributed to the coco levies — the millions of poor coconut farmers.

—JOSE T. FAGUTAO,
Executive Director,
Coconut Industry Reform Movement of
(CIRM) Inc., 104 Mapilap Hill,
Brgy. Central, Diliman,
Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and columns by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yakal and Mayapis streets, City of Makati or send a fax to this 897-8703, 897-8794, or e-mail <readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph>.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The letter will not be published any later unless such information is supplied.

Violation of national anthem law ought to be punished

ON DEC. 1, 2006, THE INQUIRER published my letter calling attention to the violation of the law governing the use of the Philippine National Anthem should be sung in accordance with the original composition of Julian Felipe.

The violations are usually committed by well-known singers in big sports events held in foreign countries, with the singers belting the anthem in the wrong tempo or pitch. Lea Salonga, Sarah Geronimo and Gerkan Cruz are among the singers who have violated the law (which the latest committing the same violation in the latest opening fight of Manny Pacquiao). The violations of this law mimic/mimic our country before thousands of foreigners.

Julian Felipe Centeno, grandson of Julian Felipe, in his letter to the editor published in Pakatoni sent me an e-mail last December to emphasize that "The anthem is a virtues revolutionary march composed for the affirmation of Philippine independence in 1898. It is not a ballad to put our emotion to sleep."

If there will be another violation of the law on the Philippine National Anthem, the sports officials and the singer involved should be held responsible.

—F. ENCARNACION-REIS,
exulenquer@yahoo.com

Congress must ensure veterans are paid all benefits, including arrears, due them

IN ART. 6446, ARTICLE 3, SUBSEC. THE Army Appropriations Act April 9, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced that funds from the PCSO lottery to be released for our veterans' regular pension this year. Additional government would also release an additional P1.5 billion in 2007, and another amount in 2008 to finally fully pay the arrears to the old age and death pensions and other benefits of veterans.

We, in the Veterans Federation of the Philippines from Bataan to Zamboanga (see list, VFP-EXEC), thank the President for her continuing support for the veterans of World War II and suggest the following additional measures to ensure that our war heroes do get to continually enjoy the benefits due them:

1. The Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines should perhaps be the first to publish/post/ write and flyers who victimize our aging veterans of their lawful benefits. Case your alone, the National Bureau of Investigation interrogated and arrested a total of 19 suspected Ghosts who defrauded — and usually pocketed — more than 10 percent of the P420,000 arrears paid to one soldier. We believe those 19 [who are currently facing court charges] represent just the tip of the iceberg. With billions of pesos to be released this year and next for the payment of the arrears due to veterans and widows, we can expect that most of those unscrupulous elements will surface all over the country wherever our veterans reside. Those elements should be identified, reported to the authorities and prosecuted.

2. There should be a hotline lobby by the DND and AFP to Congress (starting July 2007) for an appropriation to meet the payments of the P42 billion. Unless actions to administration disability pensions owed by the government, under RA 7696. Members of the new Congress can be made to understand that the inability of several Philippine Congresses to fund RA 7696 since 1994 has resulted in aging war heroes and their families enormous frustration and more difficulties.

The VFP-EXEC has established in 2007 annual program to include the observance/celebration of the war cry call on the public and all sympathetic organizations and groups to join us to consider honor and justice to our heroes not just in words but also in concrete deeds. It is the least we can do for our heroes who have gamely cried for us the freedom we have enjoyed for the last six decades.

—CAPT. CESAR CAPELLAN,
vice chair, Veterans Federation
of the Philippines from the Daughters
and Sons for Veterans Equity,
A. Villegas Street, Manila, Manila

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 924-1251 Website : www.nfa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The **National Food Authority (NFA)** wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **May 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** in the 5th Floor, the Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, covering all imported milled rice stocks in the warehouses of the **NFA Mindanao, Metro Manila, Luzon and Visayas** in the total of **70,000 MT, Minimum/ Maximum, Yellow Corrugated Equivalent to 50 Grade No. 2 and 3 or below of Overdose Origin, in bags of 50 kg/bl.,** with an approximate/ budget cost of **Three Billion Pesos (Php 3,000,000,000.00).** The price cannot exist to **Wet Price Index (WPI) for the month of May 17, 2007.**

All interested bidders are required to submit quotations in bags and in bulk or both on LUMPSUM CIF, FOB on the basis of Documents against Acceptance (DA) with a Letter of Credit (L/C) payable at sight to be issued by 90% of the available as of original documents required for payment.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT, however, to be offered should have a minimum load capacity of 10,000 MT.

All bidders are required to submit a performance security in any of the following forms of different quantities in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank in the value of ten percent (10%) of the contract price, confirmed by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the contract in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank in the value of ten percent (10%) of the contract price, confirmed by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Suppliers with pending import/export accountabilities with NFA are considered to have their bids rejected and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

For complete bidding requirements and guidelines, bidders may be accessed starting **April 24, 2007** to **May 16, 2007** from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **NFA Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.** Bidding documents may be purchased at the **Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, Left Wing, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 924-1251 and 433-5931.**

The Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available from **April 24, 2007** up to **May 16, 2007** except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays at 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Interested bidders may purchase the TOR at P10,000.00.

Pre-bidding conference will be held on **May 02, 2007** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **NFA Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.**

Opening of bids will be on **May 17, 2007** between **8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at the **NFA Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City. Opening of bids** will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The NFA shall only accept and award the offers and rebates of bidders with valid confirmation from said manufacturers.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bids which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(sgd.) **LEONCIO B. JAMIRA**
Deputy Administrator and
Chief of Staff, BAC

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
BEC BLDG. II, 57 Maginhawa St., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. (632) 926-42-14 • Fax (632) 920-13-56
Tel. (632) 926-41-36 • Fax (632) 926-41-47
Tel. (632) 926-41-79 • Fax (632) 926-26-62
Web Site: http://www.neia.gov.ph • E-mail: neia@neia.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

"To deliver/Lighten Metropolitan Region II through its Rural Electric Cooperatives (Rec) within certain municipalities and are covered by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for Eligibility and Invited bidders to submit the sealed bids."

Name of Contract:	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Power Transformers, Capacitor Banks, Switchgears and Auto Sectionalizer Banks
Location:	Region II
Date of Publication:	24 April 2007
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	Php 10,000,000.00
Contract Duration:	30 Calendar Days

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bidding Documents and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00).

It is the responsibility of each prospective bidder to secure a complete set of Bidding Documents and to attend the pre-bid conference scheduled on May 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the NEA Conference Room, 57 Maginhawa St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids must be delivered on or before May 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the NEA Conference Room, 57 Maginhawa St., Diliman, Quezon City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on May 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the NEA Conference Room, 57 Maginhawa St., Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above.

The Rural Electric Cooperatives reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(sgd.) **ANTONIO T. MAGTALAY**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1. The Poro Point Management Corporation now invites bids for Security Services for the Poro Point Management Corporation Compound for the Year 2007. Delivery of the services is required within the period as specified in Section VII, Schedule of Requirements.

2. The Poro Point Management Corporation now invites bids from eligible Security Agencies for the Year 2007 Contract for Security Services as described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority and to corporations or organizations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) and the Pag-Ibig Fund and the Local Government Unit (LGU) where the principal office is located and which are legally authorized to engage in the business of security services as stipulated in Republic Act 5487, as amended by Presidential Decree (PD) 11, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and which are licensed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) to operate as such.

4. Bidders must have a valid PCAB License and registration for the following categories: Small B and above and must submit a valid copy of their PCAB License and registration as part of the eligibility requirements.

5. Bidders must have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. Similar contracts shall refer to contracts for security services.

6. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Registration and Membership from the Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Local Government Unit (LGU) where the principal office is located.

7. Bidders must submit a valid Mayor's Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located.

8. Bidders must submit a valid Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

9. Bidders must submit a valid Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years.

10. Bidders must submit a valid Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years.

11. Bidders must submit a valid Bank Certificate showing that the bidder's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) is sufficient for the contract to be bid.

12. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Labor Laws and Standards (COC) issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

13. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS) issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

14. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Minimum Wage Law issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

15. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons" issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

16. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 6727, otherwise known as the "Wage Rationalization Act" issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

17. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8187, otherwise known as the "Paternity Leave Act of 1996" issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

18. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8282, otherwise known as the "Social Security Act of 1997" issued by the Social Security System (SSS).

19. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

20. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

21. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

22. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

23. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

24. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

25. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

26. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

27. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

28. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

29. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

30. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

31. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

32. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

33. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

34. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

35. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

36. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

37. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

38. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

39. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

40. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

41. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

42. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

43. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

44. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

45. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

46. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

47. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

48. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

49. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

50. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

51. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

52. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

53. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

54. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

55. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

56. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

57. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

58. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

59. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

60. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

61. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

62. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

63. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

64. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

65. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

66. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

67. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

68. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

69. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

70. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

71. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

72. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

73. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

74. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

75. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

76. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

77. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

78. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

79. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

80. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

81. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

82. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

83. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

84. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

85. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

86. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

87. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

88. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

89. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

90. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

91. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

92. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

93. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

94. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

95. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

96. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

97. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

98. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

99. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

100. Bidders must submit a valid Certificate of Compliance with Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Across the NATION

Poll hot spot tag awaits 5 provinces

DAY'S SUPPLY

A resident carries relief goods given by the Red Cross and the Australian Agency for International Development in Barangay Patong in Pamplona, Camarines Sur, an area ravaged by previous typhoons

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTION (Comelec) is studying the possibility of placing Sulu, Nueva Ecija, Puerto Princesa, Kalinga, and Maguindanao under the poll body's control, given the volatile security situation in these provinces.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that these provinces could be considered "election hot spots."

Another area that is emerging as a hot spot is a town on Samar island, where police seized several high-powered firearms.

Adolfo Bonita, Comelec Eastern Visayas director, said the cache out of the firearms showed the need to put the towns of Taguid-an, Samar, under close watch.

The guns were confiscated from several men, including three candidates for various positions in the town.

Senior Supt. Judah Mark Sumar, police director, reported that police operations had confiscated an April 15 v .45 cal. pistol with bullets, an M-16 Armalite rifle, three Garand rifles, an Ingram Mini machine pistol, a 9MM machine pistol and ammunition.

The police recovered the firearms inside a passenger microbus called "Chariton," which serves the Tagapul-an-Calbiga City route, at Barangay Weshagit in the island town of Taguid-an, about two hours from Calbiga City by boat.

Aside from the three local candidates, Abalos said the police also arrested 12 others who were inside the passenger microbus.

He identified the arrested local candidates as Claudio Pecores, the incumbent Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) president of Taguid-an who is now running for municipal vice mayor, and reelectionists Tagapul-an councilors Jerry Molenar and Alfredo Pecores Jr., who are all running under the Lakas-CMD.

The Calbiga City-bound passenger microbus "Chariton" made a stopover Thursday night at Barangay Weshagit purportedly to pick up the victims of a shooting incident in that village and bring them to Calbiga City for treatment. With reports from Jhaimee Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

Gunfight roars in Lucena City cockpit; 5 men dead

LUCENA CITY—POLITICAL BLOOD ONCE more spilled in Quezon province on election day, both trusted people of incumbent Atimonan Mayor Cosme Desmond, engaged a group of motorists in a shootout outside a cockpit in the area by noon Saturday afternoon, leaving three both dead with three of the attackers.

According to Desmond, Melchor de Chaves, in his early 30s, and his younger brother Elmer, stepped down from the gallery of the Sariaya Sports Center located in Barangay Sto. Cristo along the Maharlika Highway at around 2:30 p.m. to have a quick snack in one of the eateries below when they engaged a group of armed men in a shootout.

"The group of armed men were hired killers but were trained to spot those in election hot spots," Desmond said in a mobile phone interview, quoting initial reports from police investigators.

He said the three other victims, who's identified as Jun Lontok, "would be innocent" were also killed in the shooting.

Desmond identified the De Chaves brothers as key "trusted people."

"I've been receiving reports that aside from the strike De Chaves, my municipal administration Jun Lontok, was also being targeted for assassination. I hope that this is not related to politics because Sariaya has been known as a peaceful town," the town executive said.

According to Chief Insp. Jesgar Mora, Sariaya police chief, one of the suspected assailants has been identified but the police investigators decided to still withhold the identity so as not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

Victor said the three suspects all died on the spot, while the De Chaves brothers were both pronounced dead on arrival at the nearby hospital.

According to Lontok, one of the suspects in the shooting of De Chaves brothers was Marlon Bonifrid, Evan Dilidon, Quezon City and with a membership identification card of a group that in the area.

The other suspect, whose identity is being withheld by the police, was also a holder of a gun-for-hire identification, while the last one had no identification papers as his possessions.

However, Lontok claimed that the three alleged assailants were all "hired" of one Ka Jimmy, a known mastermind of hired guns in Quezon province based in Sariaya.

Lontok also claimed that he was not in hiding.

He stated to this kind of dangerous life. They could just come to me," he said in a phone interview. Delfin T. Mallon Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Moro leaders welcome move to form police rights body

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT, RELIgious and Moro leaders welcomed the move of the Philippine National Police to establish its own Human Rights Office (HRO) to discourage violence against extrajudicial killings.

Police Director General Oscar Calderon said the PNP-HRO, headed by former Central Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Gennan Garcia, "is tasked to enforce the recently approved Human Rights Security Act of 2007" by seeing to it that members of the police force who are upheld by the police in their operations, arrest and investigation of suspected criminals."

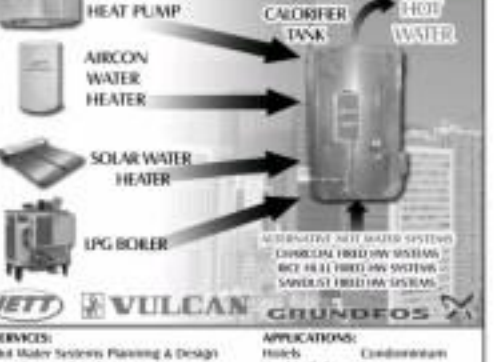
Officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) lauded the idea as surely solve the country has been tagged by international human rights bodies as one of the leading violators of the law as evidenced by the numerous killings of journalists and members of militant groups.

"We, in the ARMM, support the creation of the police human rights office, a manifestation that our police are not only law-enforcement officers of human rights and civil liberties," said ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

Ampatuan noted several cases involving the arrest of full gun rules undercover senses. Saying there is claim responsibility for a crime or other offenses they have not actually committed.

"This, indeed, is a clear violation of the law this should be stopped," said the 39-year-old ARMM chief executive.

"I am for it (PNP proposal), but I hope its creation will help the Commission on Human Rights instead of muddling the issue in the course of its investigations," associate Justice Nilo Buisning Malcontodon Jr. of Lanao del Sur Charlie C. Gomez, Inquirer Mindanao



SERVICES:
Hot Water Systems Planning & Design
Free Project Cost Estimating
Equipment Leasing & Instant Order
Trouble Shooting & Repair

APPLICATIONS:
Hotels, Condominium, Health Club, Inns, Residential, SPA, Restaurants, Hospitals, Process Factories/Plants

JETT Water Heater Co., Inc.
The Hot Water Systems Specialist
Since 1985
jettsales@pacific.net.ph
www.jett2wheater.com

Head Office & Main Showroom: Unit 1, Rizza Condominium, 101 Edsa, Caloocan, Quezon City, Tel/Fax: (632) 710-5987

JETT Cebu: # 287 A. Del Rosario Street, Gabas, Mandaue City, Tel. No.: (032) 346-4536, Fax No.: (032) 345-0695

JETT Iloilo: G-1 Benjamville Building, Iloilo Jalandoni, Jaro, Iloilo City, Telefax.: (033) 329-4976

JETT Baguio: 88 J. Cariaso Subdivision, Marcos Highway, Baguio City, Tel/Fax: (074) 442-2345, Fax No.: (0916) 442-2884

JETT Davao: Unit 5-M & H Building, McArthur Highway, Matina, Davao City, Tel. No.: (082) 299-2961, Fax No.: (082) 299-3849

DENR agent's murder on Earth Day draws rage

WRITTEN ON STONE
Monica Adviento, daughters of Baguio slain schoolar Ibolisio Abdilbak, take part in a street mural project for Earth Day in Baguio City. Elsewhere, environment advocates are donning fire.

6 hurt as workers block car plant gates

STA. ROSA CITY—HE PEOPLE were hurt when security guards of a car manufacturing plant and the local police clashed with striking workers of the car company in Barangay Pulong Sta. Cruz here on Monday.

Among those injured were three members of the Bagong Hapilas-tarang Lakas sa Hanay Mula Philippines Inc. (Hanol-SMIP) who suffered contusions and bruises in different parts of their bodies.

Also hurt were three security guards of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) who were hit by stones thrown at them by the angry protesters.

Ed Silva, Hanol-SMIP chairman, said the trouble started when security guards, policemen and alleged hired goons tried to physically prevent them from holding their program in front of the main gate of the security guards.

He said the workers went on strike in 2001 after a deadlock in negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement.

He accused company officials of harassing union members.

"All we need to avoid violence but NMPI officials ordered to disperse us using water cannons. The stones in greater disorder up with their tear-throws," Abes told the reporters.

Valentino de Leon, MBP vice president for administration, said they sought the assistance of the Lupon Tagapamayapa (barangay conciliation body) in the effort of settling the dispute.

He said it was the Employees' workers who started to throw stones at the security guards.

He said the displaced workers were intimidating their employer and said their dismissal company operations.

"We only sought police assistance to maintain peace and order at the plant. They (union members) have also blocked the main road leading to the plant," he said.

Hanol-SMIP executive is bound to respect the decision of the Supreme Court which upheld the earlier ruling of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) to reinstate 444 discharged employees of the Japanese-owned car firm.

The SC resolution, which is dated Hanol-SMIP members, was issued last June 21, 2006.

"It's almost a year since the decision was handed out by the court but Nissan officials refused to implement the ruling. Gusto kasagot na nam- magkakaroon" lamented Rudel Dimaya, Hanol-SMIP vice-chair said.

De Leon denied that they had refused to support the resolution of the high court.

He said the SC ruling reinstated the Dole decision, which stated that only 25 of the 44 displaced employees should be reinstated.

The Dole resolution, signed by then Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, said the 19 other union officers who took part in a work slowdown in September 2001 took part in other could be deemed as illegal strike as these were already an exemption of jurisdiction issued by the labor department. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

6 Team Unity workers held for poster violations

By Rhonda Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A TEAM OF THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) and law enforcement officials arrested on Sunday six persons pulling up campaign posters bearing the designated sorsa (Cebu City).

The police identified those arrested as Rogelio Borja, 40, and Emerito Bolaga, 32, both from Mayhaligue, Talisay City; Jovanni Lucas, 31, Adelo Borja, 40; Gene Cado Hilot, 20; Nicore Bacalso, 43, all from Lawaan, Talisay City.

The six were caught in the act of pulling up campaign posters in Silco Kinsengan, Barangay Basak Pardo, Cebu City.

The team, composed of the Comelec, police and barangay police, seized from them election campaign posters of all the 12 senatorial candidates of the Team Unity.

Marshal Sumo, Cebu City north district election officer, said he immediately went to the area after Basak Pardo councilor Jovan Tumulak informed him about the arrest of the six campaigners.

Sumo handed the hostages of Basak Pardo for their immediate action against those who violated the Fair Election Act.

But Sumo said the six suspects had violated at least two sections of the Fair Election Act—Section 23 which prohibits the putting up of posters outside the common poster areas and Section 13 which requires that the campaign posters indicate the name of the person or organization who financed the campaign materials and where the materials were produced.

Sumo said the six were charged yesterday afternoon before the city prosecutor's office. However, the candidates were not charged, he added.

Sumo said they are refused to name the persons or persons who supplied or paid them to undertake the job.

Sumo said the union should be a lesson to the candidates or others would follow the law.

"The law is simple. I don't know on why they could not just consult their lawyers," he said.

Sumo also said that some groups are now helping them in removing campaign posters placed outside the common poster areas.

Camarines Sur gov asks PNP to replace chief of police

NAGA CITY—CAMARINES SUR Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte has urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to immediately approve a request of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to replace Senior Supt. Romeo Maquia by Senior Supt. Romeo Tandoyan as the province's police director.

Villafuerte said the PNP's request for the reassignment of Maquia to the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5) and the designation of Tandoyan as acting Camarines provincial police director was officially transmitted to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. in a memorandum dated April 20, 2007.

The memo was signed by the Director General Oscar Calderon, PNP chief.

"I am strongly urging the Comelec to give due course to and immediately approve this request," said Villafuerte, who also pointed out that the PNP already ordered Maquia's replacement by Tandoyan last Oct. 9, but the order has yet to be implemented.

But Maquia said he would not hesitate leaving his post here once he receives the order for his relief from his assignment.

"As a good soldier, I will always follow orders from my superiors. I am always ready to go if the higher headquarters finally send my walking papers," the police director said.

Since it is election period, Comelec chairman is required by the terms of assignment of police personnel guaranteed by Comelec Resolution 7737 and 7791, which were promulgated on Aug. 10, 2006 and Jan. 23, 2006.

The ban, to be recalled (but last Oct. 30, 2006), "if [abalos] is aware a lesser to the PEP choosing Tandoyan from a list of three nominees of Maquia's replacement.

He has repeatedly pointed out that Republic Memorandum Circular No. 2003-018 gave him the right to choose the provincial police director within 10 working days from receipt of the list of three nominees from the office of the director of the regional police office.

The governor also cited a statement issued recently by the PRO5, through Supt. Elvira Rose that Maquia had been ordered relieved by "higher headquarters" for his continued failure to stop the operation of gambling activities, illegal games in Camarines Sur which is being run by a certain Boquil.

Rose said the relief of Maquia is pursuant to PNP's "1-2-3 strike" policy issued by the PNP Chief on May 8, 2006. Jaime Laude, Inquirer Southern Luzon

COVENANT
Nueva Ecija Vice Gov. Manases Cortes (seen, second from left) prays with Governor-elect Aurelio Umali (second from right) and other members of the provincial board of canvassers before the proclamation of the winners in the May 14 elections at the provincial capitol in Cabanatuan City. Also in photo are Board Member Edwin Gerochi (left) and Vice Governor-elect Bienvenido Abesamis (right). Cortes is known to be running mates with Governor-elect Edward Thomas Joson and the other candidates for other elective posts.

6 hurt as workers block car plant gates

STA. ROSA CITY—HE PEOPLE were hurt when security guards of a car manufacturing plant and the local police clashed with striking workers of the car company in Barangay Pulong Sta. Cruz here on Monday.

Among those injured were three members of the Bagong Hapilas-tarang Lakas sa Hanay Mula Philippines Inc. (Hanol-SMIP) who suffered contusions and bruises in different parts of their bodies.

Also hurt were three security guards of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) who were hit by stones thrown at them by the angry protesters.

Ed Silva, Hanol-SMIP chairman, said the trouble started when security guards, policemen and alleged hired goons tried to physically prevent them from holding their program in front of the main gate of the security guards.

He said the workers went on strike in 2001 after a deadlock in negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement.

He accused company officials of harassing union members.

"All we need to avoid violence but NMPI officials ordered to disperse us using water cannons. The stones in greater disorder up with their tear-throws," Abes told the reporters.

Valentino de Leon, MBP vice president for administration, said they sought the assistance of the Lupon Tagapamayapa (barangay conciliation body) in the effort of settling the dispute.

He said it was the Employees' workers who started to throw stones at the security guards.

He said the displaced workers were intimidating their employer and said their dismissal company operations.

"We only sought police assistance to maintain peace and order at the plant. They (union members) have also blocked the main road leading to the plant," he said.

Hanol-SMIP executive is bound to respect the decision of the Supreme Court which upheld the earlier ruling of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) to reinstate 444 discharged employees of the Japanese-owned car firm.

The SC resolution, which is dated Hanol-SMIP members, was issued last June 21, 2006.

"It's almost a year since the decision was handed out by the court but Nissan officials refused to implement the ruling. Gusto kasagot na nam- magkakaroon" lamented Rudel Dimaya, Hanol-SMIP vice-chair said.

De Leon denied that they had refused to support the resolution of the high court.

He said the SC ruling reinstated the Dole decision, which stated that only 25 of the 44 displaced employees should be reinstated.

The Dole resolution, signed by then Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, said the 19 other union officers who took part in a work slowdown in September 2001 took part in other could be deemed as illegal strike as these were already an exemption of jurisdiction issued by the labor department. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Baguio advances ₱35M to keep convention hall

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVernment has decided to advance ₱35 million to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to avoid the repossession of the Baguio Convention Center.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said in a resolution Monday.

Councilor Daniel Fong-Pascual, author of the resolution seeking the release of the amount, said he is hopeful that the city government would 10-day extension to complete its payments or lose forever.

GSIS advised Bautista in February that it planned to reclaim the convention center, which former First Lady Imelda Marcos built in 1979 to host the world chess championship match between grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi and challenger Anatoly Karpov.

The city government bought the facility after learning the GSIS planned to have the convention center redeveloped and sped off out of the subdivision. They are now subject of a massive police operation.

According to PA, the hostages were part of the team who negotiated the surrendel "Dylan Buckarol" last year in the Quezon and Aklan provinces of the Southern Luzon Mayor.

"Dylan Buckarol" was a massive government anti-illegal logging plan implemented for year in the Southern Luzon Mayor, which resulted in the confiscation of illegally-cut logs and illegal cutting paraphernalia—worth millions of pesos.

It was also learned from Government Undersecretary Ray Ejercito that just had no last night, hostages were also involved in the government efforts to dump down on illegal loggers operating in Quezon province.

PE officials called on President Macapagal-Arroyo and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to resolve the hostage's matter.

"It comes with many challenges for us environmental law enforcers—regular and volunteer alike—and on environmental protection as a whole," the group said.

George Pierce, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Carl Ben Brown, international project manager of the ID Department of America, who were in the country for a wrestling consultation and assessment of the progress of environmental law enforcement, have also expressed concern on how bold and desperate hostages's killer was.

"This is very ironic that the number happened during the celebration of Earth Day," Pierce said in the news statement.

Lawyer Gregio Catalel, of Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), also commented on the murders.

He said he would coordinate with Reyes and NMECAF on how the foundation can provide support for the hostages's family.

The PTFCF supported the BARCLAYed "Dylan Buckarol."

Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Former Mayor Bernardo Vergara investigated the failures of the corporation, owner's P200 million price tag against its worth from the rent of Camp John Hay.

But the Camp John Hay Development Authority (CJHDevcor), which leased the former base, can sell and no-renew at-risk, find the city government to access investing to P1 billion.

CJHDevcor also suspended payments all together in 2005 when the Supreme Court nullified the tax privileges offered by the John Hay Poverty Zone.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed a new law in March that restored those privileges, but the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) could not access the city government's accounts were forthcoming. Rimes said. Vincent Cabreza and Reuters Bernadette, Inquirer Southern Luzon

USEFUL
A poster of a candidate in Davao City has its uses for this local campaign season who takes a break from his duties to doze off using his candidate's poster as a cushion.

Role of Pangasinan town cop chief in pols probed

DAGUPAN CITY—THE PANGASINAN POLICE are looking into the alleged partisan activities of the local police City police chief said that they will not commend but added if the evidence warrants it, according to Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Ilocos regional police director.

But Supt. Arturo Barbio has denied the allegations, saying there have been no complaints filed against him at the Commission on Elections.

"I do not engage in partisan politics. There are no cases filed against me," he said in a telephone interview.

Elections officer Vincent Bonoel, of San Carlos City said the lead on problem with Barbio. "We work together very well. I have no idea where reports that he is engaged in partisan politics came from," she said.

Hot seat

The national media in San Carlos is hotly contested by Vice Mayor Julio Resurreccion and Mayor Adrial Resurreccion who is running for reelection, and former Mayor Dorothy Jiménez.

The Resurreccion are running under Lakas-CMD while Socrates belongs to the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipinas.

Bataoil said Senior Supt. Angelo Reyes, Pangasinan police director, has assigned Supt. Marlon Tamac, who has just arrested from training at the National Bureau of Investigation in the United States, to be the supervising mechanism in charge of election monitoring in San Carlos City.

"Reyes will ensure that the police will be guided properly as to election activities. He will open communication lines with all units, leaders in the city so that all matters that need police attention will be immediately addressed," he said.

San Carlos City is listed as an area of immediate concern in Pangasinan, according to Meriz, because of intense political rivalry among local candidates and because of election related violence in the past.

Reyes said he, with the Office of Representatives are former customs official Dalfour Jimenez, a native of Pangasinan, and Rachel Arenas, who worked in the district there.

Areas of concern

Former President Fidel Ramos, a special friend of Rachel's mother Rosemarie, had expressed to just the administrations Lakas-CMD should the party fail to endorse the candidacy of the younger Arenas and other party members who had been loyal to Lakas and not identified with Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The other areas of concern in Pangasinan, also for the same reasons, are the towns of Binmaley, Urdaneta, Bayambang, Bugallon, San Nicolas, San Manuel and Sual.

Bataoil said he had deployed 90 personnel from the Regional Mobile Group to Pangasinan and ordered them to assign most of them to San Carlos City and Alaminos town in the area.

In Ilocos region, the Commission on Elections has classified two towns as areas of immediate concern. Sta. Lucia in Ilocos Sur and Bangui in La Union.

Bataoil said the Comelec has its own source of information and validation procedure "which we or the police fully support."

The other areas of concern in La Union, according to the regional police, are the towns of Naguilian, Bauang, and San Fernando City.

In Ilocos Sur, the areas of concern are Lidlidda and Caoayan towns, Sinlaoda Sinfuentes, Deputize Ver Ilocos Luzon.

> 'San Carlos City is... an area of immediate concern...'

ABS HERBS
OFFICIAL NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTOR
GETZ Bros Phils., Inc.
No. 1 Philippine Herbal Co.

Product Name	PURPOSE	SRP*
ABS HERBAL Tea	SLIMMING CONSTIPATION	P10.25
ChanaGem Ampalaya Tea	Anti-DIABETES	7.00
Lagundi Tea	For COUGH/COLDS and ASTHMA	5.83
Sambong Tea	Anti-KIDNEY STONES	6.00
ABS BETTER HERBS	Anti-DIABETES	12.25
Kabestrini	Anti-CHOLESTEROL	7.65
Paw D' Arco	Anti-OXIDANT	8.50
XanthoneMax MANGOSTEEN PLUS	Anti-CANCER	7.75
VIRGIN	Anti-CHOLESTEROL, Anti-BACTERIAL	150.00

Available nationwide: www.abs-herbs.com.ph
@mercury drug Leading drugstores and supermarkets

Pork barrel dangled by co-op party-list

BACOLOD CITY—SOME SEEMED to be evidence that a party-list group was engaged in vote-buying was uploaded last week on the Internet, and this got the attention of the Commission on Elections.

A member of the Cooperative Natcco Network Party, the party-list group of the National Confederation of Cooperatives, could be seen in a 10-minute video clip as were possibly vote-peddling Bagong Bayani association cooperatives here claims from the Natcco congress, stood shouting several hard in exchange for their money and support.

Jose Ping-ay, the nominee, belongs to the Iloilo City Investigators Cooperative, based in Barotac Ilaya. He once served as a secretariat of cooperatives here on April 3, after they attended a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas workshop on counterfeit money.

Referring to an Ilocos Sur cooperative, Ping-ay said: "In 2004, they contributed P120,000 to the party fund... for every P100,000 contribution the cooperative will be entitled to P1 million allocation from the congressional funds."

Coop-Natcco won a congressional seat in the 2001 and 2004 elections. Emiliodoro Cate represents Coop-Natcco in the House of Representatives.

Gauging by the clip alone, lawyer Diosdado Banoga, Bagobo district supervisor, said Coop-Natcco may have violated election laws regulating campaign contributions.

She said Comelec Resolution 7794 prohibits candidates from soliciting campaign donations from public or private financial institutions or from those not allowed to receive public government commitments.

Many of the cooperatives approached by Coop-Natcco are lending facilities.

Promising pork barrel allocations already violates that rule because CDF funds are public funds, Banoga said.

But the commissioner allows candidates to receive loans from private or public facilities and members of the party-list group are using their party-list status to get the money they need.

Bayer Ilaw, one of the party-list coordinators in the city, said they solicit donations from local cooperatives to augment their campaign funds, and the CDF is only a guarantee that they get back their capital.

Ilaw intended the meeting between the Pechay party-list group from the Cordillera Administrative Region and local candidates and party-list groups from "their own constituent" to develop campaign funds, and Coop-Natcco's approach is the usual "give-and-take."

He said Coop-Natcco had always solicited campaign funds like any area since they were a new in Congress. "We are working with it because we always changed hands. This is our watchdog at all. We pour out the names of donors in our newsletters, and we tell cooperatives what they got in return," he said.

Ilaw, a manager of a market cooperative, said his group received a computer laptop from Coop-Natcco because they were credited for raising 1,000 votes in 2004.

Other cooperatives received projects worth P1 million.

The party-list group financed two buildings worth P2 million for a cooperative in Ormoc region, which donated to the 2004 campaign, he said. Vincent Gilbuena, Inquirer Northern Luzon

2 groups throw backing to Pichay

TWO PARTYLIST groups last endorsed the senatorial bid of Benigno Bitoy Pichay, also the first day of the Laoag-wide caucus that started in Ilocos Sur and Benguet.

The groups' nominees announced followed the Pichay camp's bargaining of Ilocos La Union and Cagayan.

In a statement, Isnat spokesperson and partylist nominee Lawan Imal Lambino said he group is supporting Pichay because he will not Ilocano and has displayed loyalty.

"Pichay is so in the only senatorial candidate we are endorsing to be people," Lambino said in a statement.

The Pichay caucus takes control Benguet, shifting to day and Cagayan in northeastern Luzon and Cagayan this is the third region.

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (Natcco) nationwide, has forged an agreement with Pichay to push for a common legislative agenda in the Senate should the Ilocos-ted Pichay make it.

Natcco had elected its representative to the House since the first party-list elections was introduced in the country.

Invest in your people

Human Resources Management

Basic Organization Development for Line Managers
May 3 – 4

Coaching and Counseling
May 28 - 30

Mastering Presentation Skills
May 29 - 31

Conducting Training and Evaluating Returns
June 5 - 7

Managing Employee Performance
June 13 - 15

Creative Approaches to Complaints Handling
June 14 - 15

Project Management for HR Professionals
June 18 - 19

Mastering Spoken Communication
June 19 – 29

Basic Supervisory Program
June 27 - 30

Other Courses:
Marketing Communications
May 8 - 12
Planning Negotiation Skills for Supply Chain Professionals
May 17 - 18
Treasury Operations
May 16 - 31
Ethical Hacking and Countermeasures
May 24, 25, 30, 31, and June 1
Strategic Store Positioning and Site Selection
May 26
Fundamentals of Funds Statement Management
May 26
Accounting for Management Decision Making
June 14 - 15

For details and registration, call Sharon Lianos at 830 2043 or Marivic Cantonjos at 830 2039 or write to rse-ateneo@aps.ateneo.edu.

You may also visit and register online at www.ase.ateneo.edu.

Center for Continuing Education

The ATENEO brand is your career advantage

HAPPY FACES
Children express their excitement at the prospect of a candidate for senator, Loren Legarda, with their smiles. Legarda was in Pagadian City recently, promising to continue her fight for the rights of women and children if elected to a new term in the Senate.

Army says surrender of 17-yr-old rebel shows NPA violation

By Joey A. Gabinta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Army reported that a 17-year-old female member of the New People's Army in Leyte surrendered to the government last Friday.

Lt. Col. Alexis Lacuesta, commanding officer of the 802d Infantry Battalion, based in Jaspod, Southern Leyte, identified the female guerrilla as Mercy.

He said the teenage rebel had been with the communist guerrilla for the last three years.

Cpl. "Allan Rafal," who was identified by Lacuesta to be a member of the Eastern Dahilan Command of the Northern Leyte Front Command, recruited Mercy on March 25, 2004. She was just 14 years old at the time she was recruited to join the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The group of Mercy operated in the western parts of Leyte, including Hindang. She family lives in Barangay Capoolbonan, a remote village 25 km from the town of Hindang.

"According to her (Mercy), she decided to surrender because she was tired of being always on the run and living in the mountains with no future," Lacuesta, reached on his mobile phone, told the Inquirer.

Since the people in the community no longer help the guerrillas, their life in the mountains became even more difficult, he added.

Mercy surrendered to her grandmother and uncles, surrendered to the police station of Hindang around 3 p.m. on Friday. She is now under the custody of the town police.

"She is in a happy mood but is suffering from sickness and exhaustion," Lacuesta said.

Lacuesta said the teenage girl had been an active armed member of the 38th for the past three years.

"She appears to be an intelligent girl who was blinded by the promises of the person who recruited her to the rebel movement," he said.

The military would turn over Mercy, having a minor, to the provincial office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development where she would be given needed assistance.

However, Lacuesta said the military would ask for information from Mercy about her group.

Based on the soldiers' initial questioning, "Mercy" had been involved, on "several occasions," in ambushes, one of which took place last Nov. 3, 2005 in Barangay Hinding, Bontoc, town.

In that encounter with the members of the 43rd IB, another female guerrilla, Marivic Lim, was killed.

The surrender of Mercy only confirmed that the NPA uses not only female armed members but "child warriors" as well, Lacuesta said.

"This is contrary to the United Nations Convention which prohibits the use and recruitment of children as members of an armed group," Lacuesta added.

FLOATERS
Father and son ply the beaches of Tel (District) in Davao City to sell rubber boats as some residents try to beat the heat of the dry season by swimming in the sea or just hanging out in the beach.

Alarm raised over new pests ravaging coconut plantations

SOUTH COTABATO CITY—The Philippine Coconut Authority has raised an alarm over a new pest that has destroyed hundreds of hectares of coconut farms in at least four provinces in the Bicol Region.

Victoria Bocalig, PCA official, said the new pest is known as coconut leaf beetle, more known by its scientific name as Brontispa longissima, which originated from other countries in the Asian region and Australia.

Based on the first-hand report prepared by the PCA, the insect is a flat and slender beetle colored black with a yellow-orange to reddish color at the neck and the hind portion of the wing.

The adult beetle and its larva may become unopened leaflets of young coconut sprouts and feed on soft tissues but spare the harder veins and midribs.

Imported pest

It causes decay and drying of the affected plant which prevents the tree from bearing fruit, the Inquirer noted.

One of the countries worst hit by the infestation was Vietnam, which had to allocate $168 million just to control the insect attack.

Bocalig told the Inquirer in an interview that Brontispa was discovered in the provinces of Camarines only last March although it was already present in the Southern Tagalog provinces of Laguna, Cavite and Quezon, and in Batanes and the National Capital Region.

The insect was brought into the country by importers of ornamental palms—particularly the royal palm, which came from Taiwan, and was very popular among landscape designers.

Undetected

According to the PCA official the pest was quite hard to detect as it takes three to five months before symptoms of infestation manifest or affected coconut trees.

Bocalig said coconut trees affected by the infestation could be easily identified as their young leaves appear burned or scorched.

As of March, the affected areas were the towns of Sta. Elena and Tuaco in Camarines Norte, Naga City, Libmanan, Sipocot, Pili, Pasacao and San Fernando in Camarines Sur, Legaspi City, Tabaco and Gio in Albay and Sorsogon City, Bulan, Juban, Barcelona and Gubat here in Sorsogon.

Bocalig said Brontispa-Action Teams had already been created by the PCA regional office, which coordinated and launched campaigns to control the spread of the pest.

Ways of fighting

Among the modes being adopted to stop the pest's spread was chemical control, which was being done by direct spraying on infested trees. Chemical pesticides used include those not banned by existing laws and regulations.

Agricultural tools may also cut off infested leaves.

Another way to stop the spread of the pests was to introduce the pests' natural enemies, one of which is white muscardine fungus, according to Bocalig.

Data from tests where synthetic toxic chemical pesticides, however, must not be eaten within five to six months from the date of the injection since the pesticides would contaminate them, he said.

He appealed to coconut farmers to immediately inform the PCA or officials of their locality if the presence of the pests or if there are coconut trees exhibiting the symptoms of the infestation.

Bocalig said the presence of the pest would worsen the situation of the local coconut industry in the region, which was hardest hit by post-typhoon blows. Bobby Lobañes, Inquirer Southern Luzon

A VENDOR in Davao City places blocks of ice on coconuts that he sells on San Pedro Street. The warm, dry months have renewed interest in chilled drinks, including buko juice.

Arrest of pastor in Balweg case described as 'old tune'

BAGUIO CITY—THE CORDILLERA police have arrested a Church worker for the 1989 assassination of former rebel priest Conrado Balweg, but human rights lawyers here said they are reaping an old wave.

In 2003, a regional trial court in Abra released 13 church workers and human rights activists who were originally detained for Balweg's murder.

Fr. Peter Jen Dennis of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines in the Benguet region was arrested on April 20 based on the same case, said Beverly Longid, chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

Dennis was arrested while on a pastoral visit in Barangay Ivisan here on Saturday night. He was taken on Monday to an Abra court for arraignment.

Longid said the police may not even have a case against Dennis.

The New People's Army has claimed responsibility for Balweg's murder on Dec. 31, 1989 at his ancestral home in Abra.

Longid was executive director of the Chinkey alternative law center, which served as support counsel for the 13 detainees.

Among those detainees were Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, Rev. Rosalyn and Rev. Noel Dacuycuy of the Philippine Independent Church; Norman Rian of the La Union-based Rural Missionaries of the Philippines; development worker Romeo Sanchez, and Robert Mallabo, executive director of the NGO-PO Development Center in La Union.

Sanchez, who was also a Bayan Muna co-ordinator for the Ilocos region, was gunned down in the Baguio public market in 2005. His killer remains at large.

Rebo, an Aglipayan Church worker, was the first to be charged in the case. The case described by police as the mastermind of Balweg's murder. She was acquitted by the court and released in 2003. Vincent Cabreza and Norman Cabuag, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Malacañang defends war on terror

From page A1

in its wake.

But other groups hailed Pano for his fighting words, with one group showing its praise in a manner way by sending him a mocha cake topped with icing that read: "Champion of human rights." How nobody says anything yet.

Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing said the CHR was "very pleased" that the person of Pano's stature had weighed in on the human rights issue, adding one only had to look at what US troops had done in Iraq to know how serious the issues were.

But Malacañang seemed unconvinced.

"Our fight against terror is not only our fight but the fight of the international community and terror is a scourge that affects as well regardless of boundaries," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye, however, added: "But our government is firm in its stand that the fight against terror should be fought within legal bounds and no abuses on the military or other enforcement agencies will be tolerated in the name of the fight against terror."

ED President Dionjie M. Budi has hailed President Macapagal-Arroyo as one of his top allies in Asia in the fight against terror.

In a statement, Bunye said: "We believe that the Chief Justice is only sincere in making his statements and the President appreciates these statements but the fact is that we are fighting terror within certain bounds and the President is very outspoken that there should be no condonation for any excesses that are committed by any of the law enforcement agencies."

"Our efforts to fight terror require an iron-clad will that flushes out the rebels and criminals one by one. We hold discretely by the PNP or AFP in pursuit of this objective shall be tolerated," he said.

'Senseless violence'

The US Embassy in Manila initially said Washington's strategy to counter terrorism around the world by using the Philippines' own experience in dealing with this threat.

Envoy Kristie Kenney, US Embassy national information officer, said it would be inappropriate for her to comment on Pano's statement since she had not read or in full.

But she stressed that the problems brought about by terrorism had reached global proportions.

"I will say that people around the world need together to oppose terrorism because the senseless violence of terrorists who murder innocent people and fundamentally non-democratic in peaceful communities," Kenney said.

"The recent beheadings of an armed civilian working in Jolo and terrorist incidents like the 2000 Ma-jor Ferry bombing and the 2005 Valentine's Day bombings are a stark reminder of the lengths to which violent extremists will go to achieve their goals," she added.

Nuli backs GMA

Nur Misuari was referring to the beheading by Abu Sayyaf bandits of seven construction workers in Jolo last week. The victims included two teenagers working in minivan jobs to earn money for school.

Key President Noli de Castro also took up the cudgels for Mr. Arroyo, saying the final safeguards addressed the issues of extrajudicial killings by creating the Melo Commission, which investigated the spate of murders of leftist militants and journalists.

De Castro said Mr. Arroyo also showed the country by inviting the United Nations special rapporteur Philip Alston to look into the hundreds of killings of activists since the took office in 2001.

In a statement, Palace spokesman Pano explored the "beheadless and knee-jerk" response to terrorism and said the US campaign to stamp out terrorists anywhere had led to human rights abuses and legal aberrations.

Pano also said that a weak state, with a government hobbled by corruption and credibility problems, could not protect the civil liberties of its citizens.

'Look at Iraq'

Asked if she agreed with Palace views, CHR's Quisumbing said: "All you have to do is take a look at what the US has done in Iraq, to the prisoners in Guantanamo and the deportation of prisoners to countries that allow torture."

"That's true, there lies the danger," Quisumbing added, referring to Pano's statements.

Leftist group Bayan (Bayang Makabayan) applauded Pano for giving "hope" to the opponents of the country's antiterror law.

Fernando, 15, who was stabbed dead in Davao City. Three other sons were killed in separate stabbing incidents. Clarita said a human rights group believes a vigilante group is behind the killings. DENNIS JAMES

LEAGUE of Kabataan, a militant party-list group, bring a coke to Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno Monday to show their appreciation for his critical stand on the government's anti-terror campaign. RAFFY LERMA

High court chief wins sweet praise

By Leila B. Salaverria

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE Reynato Puno won praise for his fighting words in defense of human rights and the sweetest praise came from the Kabataan party-list group, which gave him a mocha cake.

Kabataan vice president Carl Ramota delivered the cake to the court but soon spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said Puno was at a meeting and received it on behalf of the Chief Justice.

Marquez said Puno had been told about the cake and thanked the group for it.

"We're only too happy that we have a CJ Puno who stakes in our defense," he said.

Anti-terror law necessary

Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. defended the antiterror law as "necessary" and said it was necessary to curb a way that unfettered, this would not trample on the rights of suspected terrorists.

"That's his (Puno's) opinion and let us respect him, being the Chief Justice," Ebdane told reporters.

He also said the Human Security Act contained many provisions that "control the actions" government officials, including one that limits detention of suspects to a maximum 72 hours.

That was less now compared to the indefinite detention suspects in other countries have to face, he indicated.

"Most of the provisions of the Human Security Act are actually giving the benefit of the doubt to potential suspects," he added. With reports by Leila B. Salaverria, Christine O. Avendaño and Vish Cosmeña

"We're very happy that we have a chief justice who is not afraid to stand up for truth, justice and democracy," Ramota told reporters.

He said Puno was someone the youth could emulate.

"What is what the youth are looking for, people who could inspire the youth to continue to stand up for their rights, for truth, justice and democracy," he added.

Surefire diet ...

From page A1

but experiences is a common one.

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), examining 21 people who had found long-term dieting alone and keep the kilos (pounds) off. While people our lose weight initially, some relapse and regain the weight they shed.

The UCLA findings confirm what many scientists have been saying all along. Losing weight is easy, keeping it off is another story.

"If dieting worked, there would be a bunch of skinny people walking around," said Dr. David Katz, an obesity researcher and head of Yale University's Prevention Research Center, who did not participate in the latest study.

Since the 1970s, the ranks of overweight and obese Americans have risen with one decile of adults in that category.

Obesity raises the risk of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. Being overweight increases blood pressure and cholesterol levels which can lead to heart disease.

Pleasure of eating

Many doctors use complex equation successful weight reduction, according to health experts.

Diets can be taxing, and there's always a temptation to return to old habits. Sexual drives may also become discouraged and give up when their weight plateaus.

And then there are people who lose ten pounds (five kilos) don't learn to make the overall lifestyle changes—eating healthier foods and exercising regularly—that are necessary to keep their weight stable.

"It's just plain difficult to modify your diet and turn away from the pleasures of eating," said Rhichard Cooke, an obesity researcher at the University of Southern California. "We're omnivorous."

The UCLA researchers analyzed 31 diet studies that followed people two to five years after they went on diets. Research one-third said they shed the weight they lost. A small number were able to successfully maintain their weight loss.

The UCLA study did not compare individual bad diets or organized weight loss programs.

"We're not saying don't make some kind of effort," said Prof. Moore, the UCLA psychologist who led the study. "It means that people should be quite clear that a comparatively be."

The study appeared in the April issue of American Psychologist, a publication of the American Psychological Association.

Emotional eater

Perry, who owns a public relations firm in suburban Philadelphia, was an "emotional eater" who found comfort in food whenever she felt angry or depressed.

For the past 20 years, Perry tried all sorts of diets with mixed success. More recently she decided to change her lifestyle and focus on lowering her cholesterol rather than obsessing about her weight.

The result: Perry, who is 5 7 inches (5 feet 6 inches) tall, has kept her weight steady for the past two years — 153 kilograms (350 pounds) from a high of 147 kg (325 lb).

Although still obese, she is no longer considered morbidly obese.

"I would like to be healthier. I would like to be a little more toned," she said. "But I'm not running out the door to post another progress on how low weight and go back on that cycle."

It's unclear whether repeatedly losing and gaining weight leads to health problems. But some studies have found that losing excess weight and problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and gallbladder disease.

Surgery option

Specialists generally agree that surgery is the only proven method to keep weight off. But federal guidelines say a person must try traditional ways to lose weight and is at least 100 pounds (45 kg) overweight before opting for surgery.

Dr. Samuel Klein, an obesity expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said a diet's success shouldn't just be measured in kilos or pounds. If a person becomes healthier even if the weight loss is temporary, that should be deemed a success.

"There might be benefits to losing weight for a period of time even if you regain it than not having lost the weight at all," Klein said. AP

Six Sigma Champion
May 18 - 19
Venue: Subiceda, Makati

Six Sigma Green Belt
May 26, 26, June 1, 2, and 9
Venue: Subiceda, Makati

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
July 6 - 7, 12 - 14
Venue: Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Six Sigma Black Belt
October 4 - November 17
Venue: Subiceda, Makati

For details and registration, call Jan Arboleda at 830-2040 or Marbeth Tabang at 840-1742 or write to cce-ateneo@ateneo.edu. You may also visit and register online at www.cce.ateneo.edu.

Center for Continuing Education

In partnership with:
COTECNA
Training, Consulting and Certification

ISUZU INTRODUCES ANOTHER FIRST.

THE FIRST-IN-ITS-CLASS VIDEO REVERSE CAMERA

The ISUZU Isuzu Crosswind continues the tradition of introducing many firsts. An innovative and pioneering spirit that the Crosswind has been known for. The first in its class, ISUZU Crosswind introduces the video reverse camera as the new standard in safety and convenience. It's just another example of the kind of surprises you can expect only from the first and last name in diesel engine technology.

New CROSSWIND

1. Front-row entertainment system. The peak of infotainment which comes also as the standard for your Isuzu camera and sic 3" LCD.
2. Sunglass front grille adds a touch of class and sophistication.
3. High gloss finish fog lamp adds more character to Crosswind's new shape.
4. Luxurious leather appointments that is sure to bring comfort and excitement.
5. Illuminate the night and face the challenges for that added road safety.

Available variants in XL, XT, the new ETI, RUV and SportDrive

ISUZU

The responsible partner

GMA kin lose cash, phones in mall rob

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – A GRANDSON OF Gov. Mariquipd Salgado, the half-sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the boy's two cousins were held up by four thieves inside the SM City Clark mall in Angeles City at around 12:00 on Sunday.

Salgado said the boys, aged 11, 13 and 12, lost P33,000 in cash—to be used to buy a video camera—and three mobile phones worth P60,000 to the thieves.

Two of the boys were nephews of singer Lani Misalucha.

Citing the boys' accounts, Salgado said they are not responsive from their adult companions and were walking in the area of the movie houses on the second floor of the mall when one of the suspects approached them.

The man, in his late 20s, asked them to help him look for a cousin who had been tussled and who lost his way in the mall.

The suspect asked them to accompany him to Cadillac 27 in the mall's toy section, also on the second floor, where he claimed he had left a photograph of his cousin.

He has a gun

The boys said they did not sense anything suspicious because they were going to the toy section. When the boys reached the area near the cashier, three men surrounded them.

Salgado related that the first suspect showed a gun just above her grandson's waist. The gun had been concealed under the suspect's shirt.

The suspects then ordered the two older boys to turn over their money and cell phones to the youngest boy. They dragged the boy, who was only 12, to a fast food restaurant on the third floor, holding him for a few minutes. There, they forced him to turn over all the valuables. The suspects then casually walked away.

The incident was over in 30 minutes.

Warning to parents

Salgado said the three boys were traumatized.

"I hope this serves as a warning to other parents. I hope the mall owners can enforce stricter security measures. The suspects managed to roam the mall with a gun and rob helpless kids," she told the Inquirer by phone.

Salgado's daughter said that the mall security guards had "acted clearly" and were unable to recover the stolen items.

And although the incident happened at 3 p.m., the investigation lasted until 7 p.m. The boys were able to give a description of the thieves.

SPI responds

Salgado, former vice governor of Pampanga, said she decided to call Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon to ask for help when the search for the suspects were past the first hour.

Calderon was apologetic. "Sorry nangyari (It happened anyway)," she recalled.

SM City Clark public relations officer Michelle Camp said: "Our security managers and officers immediately took action, searched the mall for the boys with one of the parents."

The police, Camp said, responded and helped in the search. The incident was recorded by the police assigned to PNP Station 6 across from the mall.

Malls should be safe

"Our operations managers also met with the three (police heads)," she said, adding that mall security officials will assign two policemen each to the three entrances starting Friday.

Salgado said she also informed Calderon of a series of incidents that her friends in Angeles City called "for-ransom kidnappings [of children]."

Kids are held for 30 minutes and released only after the parents pay ransom.

"Malls should be safe places for kids," Salgado said.

SUMMER FUN. COMPLETE WORKSHOPS.

this Summer make it Happen!

JOIN A JOHN ROBERT POWERS SUMMER WORKSHOP JUST FOR KIDS, TEENS, GRADS.

Special Age Group Workshops in Personality Development, Acting, Modeling, Etiquette, and Grooming. Morning and afternoon sessions to fit your schedule. Enroll now and finish before your regular school classes begin. Earn the Worldwide John Robert Powers International Certificate.

MAKE THIS SUMMER THE BEST EVER! HAVE FUN AND GET THE LIFETIME BENEFITS OF A WORKSHOP AT JOHN ROBERT POWERS.

CALL NOW: 892 9511 (Makati City) 927 0465 (Quezon City)

John Robert Powers

START TODAY. FINISH BEFORE REGULAR CLASSES BEGIN.

Aplus METRO

Reward for capture of jewel firm heir upped

Wanted man's bounty now ₱4.02M

By Tina G. Santos

THE REWARD FOR THE CAPTURE of the owner of a wealthy family long wanted for his alleged involvement in the killing of two executives has been raised to one million.

Revamped over the victims of suspected ex-employee in the shock of his two sons shot dead four years ago, Carmencita de Castro yesterday said that another ₱2 million has been added to the ₱2.02 million earlier put up by concerned citizens and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

At the same time, the renewed bid appeal by key law enforcement agencies immediately spurs the suspect, Jose Mario S. Pauldo, son of the late jeweler, Bi Pauldo.

"I hope this will help us get justice for my sons," Tin Castro said. "I would like to appeal to the leadership of the national police to intensify their efforts to locate this man."

The 30-year-old Jose was tagged by witnesses as the one who shot dead his son, Arth Gutierrez, 31, in Calamba, Laguna, on July 15, 2003.

The suspect, whose last known address was 1488 Damandan Avenue, Damandan Village, Makati City, also reportedly robbed the victims of ₱250,000.

According to documents provided by Dr. Cecilio Pauldo, his son is declared by the Philippine National Police as one of the country's most wanted men said to were the subject of arrest warrants rendered.

Records of the case showed that on July 15, 2003, the brothers met with Pauldo after the latter offered to sell them the shares was which he had pursued as a friend for ₱3M,000.

The three then boarded a Mitsubishi Space on their way to the house of Pauldo's friend to redeem the cars.

The suspect, however, brought the brothers to the Pulauto Rural Substation in Barangay Pilahing, Laguna, where he allegedly shot them dead, and then took the ₱250,000 in cash they were carrying.

UP community hit by fire; 200 families lose homes

By Jeanicette I. Rondaris and Bernadette Tan

SOME 200 FAMILIES LOST their homes to an hours-long fire which broke out in a residential area on the University of the Philippines Diliman campus in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

A man identified as Ferdinand Abad was reportedly injured in the incident when he accidentally stepped on the sharp edge of a roof tile.

The blaze was eventually placed under control at 2:22 p.m. Firemen said that some 50 shanties were razed to the ground.

Report from the Central Fire District said the fire started at around 1 p.m. yesterday in a shanty owned by Celine Lacsamana in Purok Libis after a computer short-circuited.

The fire quickly ate up the houses before spreading to nearby shanties.

Before yesterday's incident, as can investigators said that a small fire had broken out the night before in Lamasan's house, reportedly because of the same defective electrical components.

The fire, however, was immediately put out and the owner reportedly assured neighbors that the malfunctioning machine would be repaired.

But although fire fighters responded immediately to the blaze yesterday, they were not able to prevent the spread of the flames because most of the houses in the area were made of light materials.

The narrow streets leading to the area also hampered firemen from reaching the scene sooner.

Firemen also extinguished almost household items stacked on the streets by residents outside which blocked their trucks from entering the area.

METROBRIEFS

Man kills wife

PULUPANDAN (4:34 p.m. Friday) — A carpenter Sunday is said to have allegedly strangled his wife following an argument. Chief Insp. Modesto Dy, was stabbed inside the Bautista Church in Pulupandan City at around 2:30 p.m. Sunday, nearly 12 hours after he reportedly murdered his wife, Cynthia Bautista. Dy allegedly ran to a convenient inside their apartment at Pamplona Park Subdivision, Pamplona Dos, Las Piñas. Initial reports from the police pointed to jealousy as the motive for the crime. PO2 Ramon Bernardo and Patrolmen Angeles Stephenson, witnesses to the crime and immediately reported the incident to the suspect's relatives. Meanwhile, forensic investigators in the house, where Mrs. Bautista was sitting on a chair, next to the Electrical Church and arrested Bautista. "We attempted to be running away, apart 3, and 5, and were with him," Bernardo said.

Jahnell Asuncion

Accidental fire

A SMART Tunnel dust collector guard for that ruled out as simply for the Libon Municipal Hospital, Albay Municipal Hospital Center in Pasay City, especially because nearby shallow fire and further was reported at about 1:40 a.m. It started in an empty lot next to a factory by a bonfire, according to Senior Fire Officer Ramon Bautista. The fire was extinguished at the scene.

Kristine L. Alave

Raffle draw result

THE "ALAS Pasay Mindo ng Buon" raffle draw at the UP Alumni Pin Beta Fraternity Caravan, originally scheduled today, has been moved to July 28, 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Manila Hotel on Roxas Boulevard. Tickets are still on sale. Call Alma Lagunzad or Aileen Perez at 8400400, 9155508, or e-mail chancery_ms@yahoo.com.ph

Survey shows Binay leading over Lapid in mayoral race

By Dj Yap

AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of voters from Makati City's second district prefer incumbent Mayor Jejomar Binay over his rookie opponent, Sen. Lito Lapid, according to a recent Pulse Asia survey commissioned by the mayor's camp.

Ninety-four percent of registered voters in the district said they would vote for Binay when re-running for a third term, to proceed in three percent who chose Lapid, said the survey conducted on April 11 and 12.

Another three percent said they were not inclined to vote for either candidates. Pulse Asia said.

In the vice mayoral race, 70 percent of the respondents said they would reelect incumbent Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado while 20 percent said they would vote for Lapid's running mate, Benavente "King" Yabut, the survey showed.

In the congressional race, Binay's daughter, Abigail, was picked by 55 percent of the respondents against the 19 percent who said they would vote for her opponent, Ernesto Gonzales, son of Philippine Estates and Incorporated Corp. chair Ernesto Gonzales.

The survey was conducted among 400 registered voters in the district, which, according to figures provided by Makati's public affairs chief Joey Salgado, has 175,2346 voters.

District 2 has slightly more, with 199,411 voters.

Salgado said the survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent, was commissioned by supporters of Binay, but he did not say who they were.

But Lapid's camp remains upbeat in spite of its chances of wresting the mayoralty of the country's financial center from Binay.

Alex Monsalve, Lapid's executive assistant and media liaison chief, said the senator's campaign recently got a much needed boost from flocking four Bikolnon mayors to his camp, with 199-411 votes.

Low-cost homes for urban poor

By Nerry Ayroh B. Cabigas and Margaux C. Ovila

FOUR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES can now live in condominium-type units.

The Quezon City government has finally developed step forward in providing low-cost housing for its urban poor residents and low-income government employees with the construction of two five-story buildings in Barangay Vasra Project 6.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said it was the duty of the city government to improve the quality of life of the urban poor under his "Quality Command" idea.

Decent living

"We aim to transform squatter communities throughout the city into a decent place conducive for everyday living," Belmonte said in a statement.

Each building holds 60 one-bedroom units with a floor area of 23 sq m each.

The average cost of each unit is P450,000, according to the mayor.

He added that the monthly amortization would depend on the income level that the beneficiaries will occupy.

"The units at the bottom of the buildings are priced the highest while those on the fifth floors are the cheapest," Belmonte said.

Inauguration

The QC Housing and Resettlement Authority Inc. (HURA), Bistro Diwata Housing Project, a Bistro-minute ride away from City Hall, will be inaugurated on May 6, a government source said. It will be highlighted by the blessing of the two buildings.

The activity will be part of QC HURA's anniversary celebration.

Belmonte created the QC HURA on May 8, 2003 to serve the city's urban poor residents.

The Bistro Resettlement Project was also developed under the HURA program to provide low-cost houses to 156 of the city's urban poor families.

Siblings hurt in Mandaluyong shooting incident

By Kristine L. Alave

TWO PEOPLE WERE HURT, including a 9-year old boy, in a shooting incident in Mandaluyong City on Monday night that left police investigators at a loss over the motive behind the shooting.

Raymundo Bernardo, 22, 9th grader and a resident of 20 Lilac St., Hacienda Heights Compound Sto. Martires City, and her 9-year old brother were admitted at the Medical City Hospital in Pasig City after sustaining gunshot wounds.

Apart from her younger brother, a police report said Bernardo was with her two sisters — one aged 15 and the other 25 — and Chantsie Flores when the incident occurred.

Based on the police report, the victims were on board a tricycle driven by Bernie Cielo when a motorcycle hit the back of the car as it was turning left at the intersection of San Miguel Ave. and Lovedes Ave in Mandaluyong City at about 11:40 p.m.

Bernardo, who was sitting the vehicle, stepped the car when she heard the blast. She then saw the two men on board the motorcycle get off the vehicle and approach her car on both sides.

One of the suspects threw a gun and fired at the front passenger's side, hitting the boy twice in the right arm. Bernardo was hit in the stomach. The suspects immediately escaped on board their motorcycle after the incident.

In their panic, the victims' companions failed to notice the plate numbers of the motorcycle, police said. Investigators recovered two empty shells and a cartridge of a 9 mm pistol at the scene.

Mandaluyong police chief Supt. Ernesto Peñaspisel said investigators were still trying to determine the motive behind the shooting.

He said they have no idea why the gunman would shoot at the young woman. According to him, they have called out robbery as nothing was taken from the victims.

"We are looking at the victims' background," Peñaspisel said, noting that there could be personal circumstances behind the shooting or it could be a case of mistaken identity.

ALL TOGETHER NOW
Makati's 18 Outstanding Students with Mayor Jejomar Binay and Lower Cabs. Makati Jaycees president Alvin S. Babasol, Marlon O. Ramos, Mariano M. Tuadora, Ms. Kristin M. Tiradani Jovenisa M. Tambunan, Andrei Dominic A. Arellanes, Ms. Lizza M. Jimenez, Camille Rae C. Lim, Kathryn Eunice B. Salanga, and Ms. Kristine Camille D. Tan. (Absent: Accomplice's Ms. Lena Jimenez with Father Rebecca Ms. Dania Marie Ramos.)

Manila's Atienza firm about Pandacan oil depot closure

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA is against the petition of the so-called Big Three oil firms and Department of Energy asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling prolonging the stay for the closure of the Pandacan oil depot.

He said oil companies Pilipinas Shell, Petron and Chevron have said the closure of the oil depot would lead to higher oil prices.

Last month, the Supreme Court ordered the Manila City government to implement Ordinance No. 8027 in classifying Pandacan and Sta. Ana as commercial area, instead of industrial — a move that would mean the closure of the oil depot.

It added that there was no legal impediment to the implementation of the city ordinances which is intended to prevent a terrorist attack on the flammable and explosive depot.

The Pandacan oil depot is near Malacañang and residential and commercial areas.

The continued stay of the depot in Pandacan poses real danger—the probability of a explosion in the area or fire, safety, security and even property of Manila residents living there," Atienza said.

He also refuted the argument of the DOE and oil companies that Ordinance No. 8027 has been repealed by Ordinance No. 8119 which was passed in 2000.

The new ordinance, according to the oil firms, gives them seven more years to prepare for the shutdown the oil depot.

Atienza, however, denied this.

"While there may have been a change in the designation of the land use of the Pandacan oil depot by Ordinance No. 8119, the intention is still to continue what was established in Ordinance No. 8027," he said.

The oil companies' claims that they would suffer economic loss if the oil depot is closed could result from the depot's closure was unwarranted, according to Atienza.

He said public safety should prevail over the companies' interests.

"The choice should be clear. This right to life, safety and security should take precedence and priority over other economic rights. These basic human rights are supreme and cannot be compromised," he warned.

DID YOU KNOW

THE LAST national conference in Metro Manila was held at the University of the Philippines Administration Building. The 13-storey structure is the centerpiece of the 493-hectare diliman, which also extended to Cubao in the Quezon City, stretching all the way to the Marikina River.

Every public child knows that dictionary, big or small, should be solved with dispatch.

But why did the President have to give an order for the immediate solution of the murder of Jonas Burgos and Jose Campbell?

Because she saw that things were not moving at last so they should for the Campbell slaying case.

And things don't move fast in the PNP investigative bureaucracy. It has an omnipresent leadership.

Says my source in Camp Crame: "Sir Chairman is the most omnipresent PNP chief so far."

The new time 2004 considers the most PNP chief, she should cannot cut blood relations.

When the PNP leadership is weak, inefficient, runs down the rank and file.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands branch at 109 Fairview in Quezon City was robbed in broad daylight.

And do you know what?

The police community precinct was a just stone's throw away.

What were the cops at the precinct doing?

The President's order to Arroyo are the like loyal responsible for the bolder's beheading of seven

A question of leadership

ON TARGET
Clemson Padin

squires, should also include the suspects of the recruit group.

Most recent members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who allegedly give the slain General reservists.

Remember the hostage taking of a Marine major general and an undersecretary so India swore from our embassy?

That incident led to immediate the killing of several MNLF members and the death of two government troops when Marines attacked an MNLF camp where they hoped hostile were allegedly hiding.

The Marine general and undersecretary were to the MNLF camp to appease the MNLF but were held hostage by the rebels.

The same MNLF leader, Commander Habier Malik, who held the general and undersecretary hostage also ordered the mortar bombing of a Marine base recently that set off some bombings.

The government should show necessary in going after the perpetrators of the barbaric act.

It is the only language the fanatic group understands.

Why does the slow leg of still hold many to many areas in India and Brazilian cases when government troops, supposed to be subordinate pursuing them?

Aren't our troops being helped by US Army special forces?

The government will deny this, but my sources say US military personnel are actively take part on the search-and-destroy missions.

The answer to the question is: Political conflict is, government troops are pursuing the Abu Sayyaf, but only half-heartedly.

Why?

Because the troops are demoralized since some of their hierarchical leaders, whom they love and respect so much, are in jail.

Sarkozy, Royal win round 1 in French election

ROYAL

PARIS—NICOLAS SARKOZY, the conservative, and Segolene Royal, the Socialist, won the first round of the presidential election Sunday setting up a classic left-right contest next month between two candidates with competing visions of how to govern France.

Whoever is elected will also usher in a new generation of leadership, for the first time France will have a president who did not come of age during World War II.

With more than 99 percent of the vote counted, Sarkozy was leading with about 30.7 percent of the vote, while Royal had about 25.2 percent. Francois Bayrou, the centrist who had been in third place, could have a key say in governing, running in a distant third with about 18.6 percent.

A field of nine other candidates, including the far-right Jean-Marie Le Pen, also came in second in the first round in 2002, captured the remaining votes.

The balloting Sunday was marked by high anxiety, many uncertain and a record turnout.

An estimated 85 percent of France's 44.5 million registered voters cast ballots, 10 percentage points higher than five years ago. The lines were so long at some polling stations that they had to stay open beyond their scheduled closing of 6 p.m.

The enormity of the turnout was reflected in another statistic: by 5 p.m., 74 percent of France's registered voters had cast their ballots—higher than the total percentage participation in the first round of the 2002 contest.

Minutes after the first results were announced, Sarkozy was at his campaign headquarters in Paris, congratulating French voters for their wisdom for choosing him—and Royal. More than an hour later, Royal appeared before a rally in the Poitou-Charentes region, where she is regional president, promising to change France, but softly.

Public opinion polls have predicted that Sarkozy, 52, head of the pro-market Union for a Popular Movement party and the former Interior Minister, could easily defeat Royal, 53, in the second round.

An IPSOS poll conducted Sunday night after the polls closed indicated that Sarkozy would prevail with 54 percent of the vote against 46 percent for Royal. AFP

SARKOZY

3 suicide bombings in Iraq kill 27

BAGHDAD—THREE SUICIDE bombers launched attacks in different parts of Iraq on Monday killing at least 27 people and wounding nearly 60 on Monday, police and authorities said.

A parked car bomb also exploded outside the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, killing one civilian, and a driver by shooting wounded two guards at Tehran's Embassy in the capital, police said.

Monday's first suicide car bomb attack occurred near the northern city of Mosul at 7:16:10 a.m. when a suicide attacker detonated his car in front of an office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Massoud Barzani, leader of the autonomous Kurdish region in Iraq, an official with the group said. At least 10 people were killed and 30 wounded in the attack in Tel Kotel, a town 35 km south of Mosul, said Abdul Ghani Ali, a KDP official. AP

SCISSORS DANCER

Puma, a woman dancer, pierces his lip and tongue during the national scissors dance competition in Villa Maria, southern Lima, April 22. During the Peruvian Scissors Dance (Danza de las Tijeras), dancers compete by dancing as well as by taking part in rituals such as glass-eating, walking on fire or sticking wires into their body to show spiritual superiority. AFP

Suicide-pact girls posted misery on Internet

SYDNEY—TWO TEENAGE Australian girls who killed themselves in an apparent suicide pact had posted depressed notes on Internet sites including MySpace in the months before their deaths.

Jodie Gates and her friend Stephanie Gerrard, both 16, were found hanging from a tree in a national park near Melbourne on Sunday. They had been missing for a week before their bodies were found.

Jodie had written several home-mentioning suicide on one of her websites between December and February, including a poem called "Outside in the Night."

"It's over for me, I can't take it (I have to run) and now again, it feels like it always rains," it reads.

In one MySpace entry she wrote: "Let Steph n me L love." Her friend MySpace replies were on April 14, one day before she and Gerrard went missing, and was addressed to her best friend Allan.

"I luv you more one month Allan. Miss u heaps and heaps n more I will always remember u," she wrote.

Gerrard had documented her struggling with depression on her website before she died, saying: "I don't wanna know how many friends you have coz I don't have any anymore."

Friends of the girls also posted to MySpace to express their grief at the news of their deaths, some of which had media reported Gerrard's mother had posted a message to the early hours of Monday morning.

"Stephanie, why didn't you tell me you were feeling so upset? Why didn't you just come home?" she wrote reads.

"You had only just turned 16. You were always such a quiet girl who spent time listening to music and surfing the Internet."

Friends said joint suicides by girls were extremely rare. AFP

EU set for tough talks with Russia over policy rifts

LUXEMBOURG—EUROPEAN officials were set for difficult talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Luxembourg Monday, with plans for an unprecedented frozen topping a growing list of policy rifts.

The already strained ties worsened further on Sunday when high level EU officials in Cyprus failed to lift a Russian ban on Polish meat and other foodstuffs.

That move was swiftly followed by an announcement from Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski that his country, an EU member since 2004, will maintain its missile long veto on new strategic partnership talks between the EU and Russia.

"We do not agree to opening discussions with Russia on a new agreement as long as this embargo [on Polish meat] is not settled," he said.

Moscow, along with traditional ally Belgrade, is firmly opposed to UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari's plan for supervised independence for the breakaway Serb province of Kosovo, and could use its veto over whether the matter comes before the UN Security Council, probably within the next few weeks.

The European Union supports the UN envoy's scheme, under which it would deploy a key administrative and security role in Kosovo, despite misgivings from some member states including Greece and Slovakia.

Russia, which the EU sees as a potential future member, has been angry by a UN human rights Resolution 1244, which was passed by the Council in mid-1999 after Slobodan Milosevic's regime launched a brutal crackdown on Kosovo's majority ethnic Albanians.

Ukraine's Gazprom over friendly ties it to Belgrade last Thursday declared that "[W]Ahtisaari's plan has failed."

The shaky EU-Russia relationship already takes a turn for the worst last week when the German presidency of the European Union refused minority over a security crackdown on opposition demonstrations in Moscow and Saint Petersburg and urged Moscow to respect democratic freedoms.

There are also differences over a US plans to build part of anti-intercontinental missile shield in Poland and the Czech republic.

Washington says the shield is aimed at countering threats from Iran and other "rogue" states.

However Russia does not want to see Cold War foe setting up military hardware in its backyard, nor will new fixed satellite states.

European misgivings over its high dependence on Russian oil and gas are another bone of contention.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson warns as far last week as to opine that Europe-Russia relations stand at their lowest ebb since the former era Cold War. AFP

Pressure increases on Wolfowitz to resign

LONDON—A GROUP OF TOP World Bank executives has urged Paul Wolfowitz to resign, as the bank's crumbling renewed his actions were undermining the ability of the institution to carry out development work.

The 24 senior executives wrote a letter to the Financial Times, published on Monday, advising Wolfowitz to give up the presidency for the good of the bank following a controversy over the promotion of his girlfriend.

"We believe that he can no longer be an effective leader," said the letter, which was signed by former World Bank No. 2 under Wolfowitz, Shengman Zhang, among others.

The letter added: "It is our judgment of bank staff in all levels, provided a rift among senior managers, developed tense relations with the board, damaged his own credibility as good governance—his flagship issue—and alienated some key shareholders at a time when their support is essential for a successful replenishment of the resources needed to help the poorest countries, especially in Africa."

The letter concluded: "There is only one way for Wolfowitz to further the mission of the bank: he should resign."

Ignoring the pressure on Wolfowitz, a former deputy defense secretary who helped plan the US-led invasion of Iraq, the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) issued a critical assessment that was carried on the FT's website.

The newspaper said the "factual statement" would be considered by

WOLFOWITZ

the World Bank's board this week.

"The institution is at a critical juncture where its development effectiveness is being jeopardized by serious governance problems that have significantly eroded its light," the IEG said. "A proper and quick resolution of this problem is vital for the organization's continued effectiveness in development."

The watchdog warned: "The current climate of events causes concern in three respects. Indications are that the ability of staff—particularly those working in client countries—to carry out daily interactions with clients, as well as the institution's ability to convening partners, are eroding. Time is being damaged."

The IEG advised "swift changes in management and a senior-level effort to restore credibility", according to the memo, dated April 20 and addressed to the board of executive directors.

Sources have told Reuters Wolfowitz's fate will be determined this week when a bank committee reports on whether he abused his position to recommend a pay rise for a bank employee with whom he had a personal relationship. Wolfowitz has denied any wrongdoing in the case.

World Bank staff representatives are adamant their leader should resign. Last week, one of his two top deputies said he he should quit for the well-being of the bank. Reuters

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

US searches for answers after massacre

WASHINGTON—MOURNERS GATHERED HERE Sunday to remember 33 people shot dead on a US campus, as the nation sought answers to why the massacre happened and vowed to learn its tragic lessons.

At a special evening service in the US capital, university officials and alumni from Virginia Tech placed lit candles for each of the dead at the altar of the vast National Cathedral.

One candle represented Israeli-Korean-born professor, Cho Seung-Hui, a double-major student who took his own life after mowing down 32 students and teachers.

As Americans in churches across the country bowed in prayer, the country's top law enforcement official promised to "do everything humanly possible" to find out why Cho went on the rampage on Monday, April 16.

School officials will mark the massacre with a bell toll for each of the 32 victims timed with the release of 32 white balloons.

Amid universal sorrow and searching over the incident, questions remain over how Cho, whose violent, graphic writings had raised alarm among his teachers was allowed to remain on campus despite having been diagnosed as mentally ill in 2005 after two stalking incidents.

His family have spoken of their anguish over the killings, saying they could never have imagined "that he was capable of so much sadness."

"We have made the world wrong. We are living a nightmare," said the statement released on Friday.

And in the spirit of reconciliation, mourners at the campus have added a third memo for Cho to a makeshift memorial erected on the drill field, and already previously bore only 32 flag- and flower-adorned stones for each of his victims.

At the National Cathedral service, there was a similar message of love and support, as well as a sermon from Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church, which has caused deep divisions in the Anglican Communion.

"We've got over 6,000 great colleges and universities in this country. We've got 17 million men and women going to school and maybe one of this tragedy we can refine the rule that this would never happen again," he added.

President George W. Bush has also ordered a review after the Virginia shootings which came almost eight years to the day after the campage at Columbine High School in Colorado which left 15 dead.

Cho referred to the two Columbine killers in chilling video like which he prepared before his shooting spree and mailed to a US network, and a portrait has emerged of him as an emotionally disturbed loner. AFP

HI-PRECISION diagnostics

Now Available!

MAMMOGRAPHY

Using the **contour** 2d mammography system

- Affordable — P 800.00
- Accurate results
- Suitable for Asian build
- Reduced discomfort compared with older machines

To set an appointment ...

HEAD OFFICE

www.hi-precision.com.ph

Gun lobby actually stronger after tragedy

WASHINGTON—THE POWERFUL US gun lobby, far from being weakened by last week's single-college rampage shooting, actually has emerged stronger, gun advocates said, stepping up calls Tuesday for a better-armed US citizenry to prevent future attacks.

Gun-rights advocates said that following last week's massacre, in which 23-year-old Cho Seung-Hui fatally shot 32 victims at Virginia Tech University gun-control forces will be hard pressed to make decisive further inroads.

"This is a huge nail in the coffin of gun control," said Philip Van Cleave, president of the gun-rights group Virginia Citizens Defense League.

"They had gun control on campus, and it got all those people killed, because nobody could defend themselves," he told AFP.

"You want people to be able to defend themselves ... always," he said.

Van Cleave said the tragedy would give a boost to a years-long effort in Virginia to pass legislation allowing students to carry weapons on campus—especially since existing laws failed to prevent Cho's murderous rampage.

"Gun control failed. That was how it happened, so naturally it is now said that we're living a nightmare," said the statement released on Friday.

And in the spirit of reconciliation, mourners at the campus have added a third memo for Cho to a makeshift memorial erected on the drill field, and already previously bore only 32 flag- and flower-adorned stones for each of his victims.

At the National Cathedral service, there was a similar message of love and support, as well as a sermon from Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church, which has caused deep divisions in the Anglican Communion.

"We've got over 6,000 great colleges and universities in this country. We've got 17 million men and women going to school and maybe one of this tragedy we can refine the rule that this would never happen again," he added.

President George W. Bush has also ordered a review after the Virginia shootings which came almost eight years to the day after the campage at Columbine High School in Colorado which left 15 dead.

Cho referred to the two Columbine killers in chilling video like which he prepared before his shooting spree and mailed to a US network, and a portrait has emerged of him as an emotionally disturbed loner. AFP

THE AMERICAN FLAG is lashed in rainsun and orange light in honor of the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting, as seen from Niagara Falls State Park in Niagara Falls, NY, April 23. AP

Del Monte Philippines moves to new address

Del Monte Philippines, Inc., a premier food and beverage company and the country's leading exporter of pineapple products, wishes to inform all its friends and business partners that our corporate offices in Makati City have moved to our new home in **Taguig City** effective **April 23, 2007**.

Our new Metro Manila address is:

Del Monte Philippines, Inc.
2nd Floor, Building 3
Bonifacio High Street
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, 1634

Trunk Line
+ 63 2 856-2888

Mail
P.O. Box 41
Taguig Central Post Office
Lower Bicutan, Taguig City

(The addresses of our plantation, manufacturing and administrative offices in Mindanao have not changed.)

Del Monte Philippines, Inc.

Monitors slam Nigeria poll

ABUJA—ONE OF THE THREE LEADING contenders in the race for Nigeria's presidency called Tuesday for the election to be rerun as foreign observers slammed ballot abuse and voter irregularities.

"I have already rejected the elections," Vice President Atiku Abubakar told journalists in the capital Abuja, referring to Saturday's vote to take over from President Olusegun Obasanjo and legislative elections that were held concurrently.

"They have no alternative other than to cancel them altogether."

In a statement from Berlin, the German presidency of the European Union echoed elsewhere "irregularities" and bloodshed that erupted in country regions.

"These incidents have given rise to concerns that not all Nigerians entitled to vote really were able to do so freely and without fear," a statement said.

But the chair of the country's electoral commission (Inec), Maurice Iwu, who is being widely criticized by the opposition at home, refused claims of electoral misdeeds and fraud.

"We have had successful elections. It was free and fair," Iwu told a news conference.

Foreign observers were unanimous however in underlining the shortcomings of a poll due to see the first peaceful transfer of power from one civilian to another since Nigeria's independence in 1960.

An observer for the European Community of West African States (Ecowas) said the elections were "fairly acceptable" rather than "free and fair."

The Commonwealth observer team likewise noted "significant shortcomings" in the conduct of the poll, while the International Republican Institute, a US-based prodemocracy group, said the poll fell below the standards set in previous Nigerian elections in 2003 and in 1999.

Results of the poll are due to be spat out piecemeal and the two 61 state-largest executive are due Monday.

A coup would be no stranger given the logistical challenge of organizing elections in a country with 140 million people and a track record of electoral violence and political thuggery. Four registration dates took several months.

Saturday's vote was marred by delays and ballot-box stuffers, as well as violence and Nigeria's largest local observer body the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), too has threatened to request cancellation of the poll. AFP

THE SAINT AND THE POPE

Pope Benedict XVI stands near the remains of St. Augustine during a visit in Pavia, northern Italy, on April 22. The Pontiff paid homage to the key figure in the early Christian church, St. Augustine, during one of his rare pastoral trips and addressed a message that he said the world needed to hear: God is love. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Bicol lass puts away first Palaro gold /A26

SPORTS

- Warriors stun Mavs /A28

NCAA slaps one-year suspension on PCU

PCU's Llanian Amparado (left) drives past Letran's Rafael Ipac in the NCAA seniors game last season. The Dolphins, like their high school counterparts, witness the 2007 season following an NCAA panel's decision to slap a one-year suspension on all PCU teams.

By Mac Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY WAS SLAPPED YESTERDAY A ONE-year suspension by the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) after four members of the school's junior basketball team were found guilty of using bogus identities.

"The NCAA policy board unanimously decided to suspend PCU1 for one year in all events of the 83rd season of the NCAA effective immediately," said NCAA policy board president Vicente Sahiola of Jose Rizal University, in a statement released after separate meetings held at JRU.

"The findings of both the inquiry of NCAA Management Committee and investigation of PCU has proven that there was indeed identity swapping. The policy board endorsed this finding as a grave violation of the core objectives of the NCAA," Pitiella added.

The league imposed its first year-long ban on a member for eligibility infractions after the two NCAA probe bodies were able to establish that junior players JP Imperasuro, James and Cesar Dequina and Victor Miguel Oliverio used falsified school records to get into the Baby Dolphins lineup.

The four players were sidelined from the NCAA and the Baby Dolphins were asked to return their second place trophy together with individual awards.

PCU president Dean Ilanen said the school is accepting the decision of the PIGMA policy board, which also called for the forfeiture of PCU's third-place overall results for the high-school division.

"This is a lesson learned," said Ilanen in another statement. "For because of some overzeal personnel and athletes our school was gravely affected."

However, the Dolphins will get to keep their seniors overall championship.

How the four players pulled off the identity switch was not clearly explained. Officials merely said that the players submitted the school records of either a brother or a cousin to meet the 19-year age limit for high-school rapers.

PCU representatives to the management committee Fred Chino said they have already fired the coaching staff of the junior squad headed by Greg Sinko.

The decision recalls a similar ban imposed by the UAAP on De La Salle University last year for fielding two ineligible senior basketball players.

The NCAA classroom members reportedly sought the season ban on PCU after receiving more evidences of fraud committed by the school in other sports.

But the suspension from Valdilla did not mention any other PCU violation.

The Dolphins finished second last behind last year and would have introduced junior stalwarts like MVP Elvis Ababou for this year's season finale.

Baldness is serious hairloss.
Stop yours now.

Continuous excessive falling hair is a serious problem. Left untreated it will progress to extensive hairloss and baldness. Swenson's Ultra Hair-Reinforcer Formula will control your hairfall and bring back its fullness and volume. Stop hairloss today. Call Swenson for a free consultation.

Swenson
INTERNATIONAL
Salons for Men & Women
Call 892-HAIR (4247)

Your weekend getaways are even closer than you think with the Ford Escape's new affordable payment schemes. The Ford Escape 2.3L 4x2 XLS AT is available for as low as P12,769* monthly and the Ford Escape 2.3L 4x4 XLT AT for as low as P15,412* a month. Get your hands on this authentic adventurer. Pretravel drive and be rewarded by limitless options to unwind in the outdoors.

Call 889 3673 for more information on our exciting financial plans. Available through Ford Credit only. Promo runs until April 30, 2007. Suggested retail prices start at P1,149,000 for the 2.3L 4x2 XLS AT and P1,338,000 for the 2.3L 4x4 XLT AT.

Ford
Make Every Day Exciting

Burger King, Lhuillier dispute PBL lead today

COACH LAWRENCE CHONGSON HAS SIX reserves leaving Burger King for two weeks in the PBL Unity Cup.

Confident that his senior is well in place, Chongson said Burger King remains a strong contender as it departs on the road against Cagayan's Lhuillier-Pera Pickle today.

"Lhuillier coach Allan Gregorio is capable of handling the team," said Chongson, who left for the United States last Saturday to attend to personal matters. "I was discussing the same time/last conference and they managed to win games."

Chongson, also an assistant for 4G23 in the PBA, will call the shots for the Pilsoppers as the

AIDA Rosario of Bicol Region sets up for her fifth throw in the javelin finals. Rosario ended the gold.

Bicol lass puts away first Palaro gold

By Jove Nevarro

SORSOGON, CITY—A PARMER'S DAUGHter from Camarines Sur soared the first gold medal of The 2007 Palarong Pambansa after outgoing supremo in the secondary girls' javelin throw at the South Catalunan Sports Complex here.

Aida Rosario, 17, clinched the gold with a throw of 30.43 meters on her fifth attempt to beat two Western Visayas lasts and displace her winning performance last year in Naga City.

"It was the last throw, so I gave everything I had," said Rosario, a second high school graduate at the Camarines Sur Academy said in Filipino.

Jose Ramos settled for the silver with 30.05 while Sharmaine Joy Bacaling sets third (24.34).

Western Visayas struck gold through Malka de Ores in the girls' elementary classical even as personnel overall champions National Capital Region captured two of the three golds it stake for the day in the boys' division.

Mark Cabuga dominated the 800m boys' elementary triple jump and Gregory Wong topped the boys' secondary javelin throw for NCR.

Sculptor Tabil of Gumbaoang seized the other gold in the boys' category, prevailing in the second-fastest triple jump with a leaped 14.24 meters.

De Ore, whose older sister Shayne topped two golds in Iloilo City two years ago, bucked the loss sphere to a distance of 9.08 meters.

Karina Jane Marquez of Gumbaoc clinched the silver with 9.17 while her provincemate Mayen Regal took third with 8.95.

The 12-year-old daughter of a sports officer based in Bacolod City, De Ore is aiming to surpass her sister's feat when the incoming University of St. La Salle high school freshman schedule some action in the discus and javelin throws.

"I'm more comfortable on the discus throw," said De Ore, who waited the girls' elementary discus throw gold last year in Naga City. "Hopefully, I could defend the gold in that event."

Cabuga registered 11.29 meters on his sixth and last attempt to the triple jump to beat Marlon Ann Abarr (10.97) and Mark Angelo Pascua (10.81) at host Gumbaoang. Kaing bested the golds to a distance of 56 meters.

Capricorn Elmer Simbus was second behind Tabil in the triple jump with 13.49m. Danilo Dayon of Catalunan was third with 13.24m.

National Capital Region edged Southern Tagalog 8, 1-0, for high school softball, where many of the games ended in lopsided fashion.

Western Visayas blanked Ilocos Region, 11-0; Region III (Calabarzon region) crushed Eastern Visayas, 16-0; and Central Luzon trashed the host over Caraga, then Cordillera blanked Central Visayas, 11-2, in elementary softball.

Central Visayas bounced back in girls' high school volleyball after prevailing over Ilocos, 20-24, 25-11, 25-11, 25-15, 15-13, 15-13, 15-13

Phone Pals face Tigers; Aces take on Beermen

TALK 'N TEXT HOOTS FOR A THIRD STRAIGHT WIN AGAINST SMB/SHELL as Coca-Cola tunes in the final elimination round game of the PBA Fiesta Cup before the league takes its annual All-Star break.

San Miguel collides with Alaska in the first match at 4:30 p.m. before the Phone Pals Tigers duel at 7:30 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome.

After today's twinbill, the league brings its All-Star show to San Fernando, La Union and Baguio later on Sunday.

Stars from the South, led by reigning MVP James Yap of Purefoods and Gil Arnaiz from Sunny Staple and Joe Sinda, will seek to repeat their impressive performances from the North in the centerpiece All-Star Game scheduled tonight at the City of Pines.

The Phone Pals won last Friday's match against the Oil Boys to remain in the thick of the playoffs and brought down the Shaker Aces at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's good to finally get that (winning streak) off our backs," Phone Pals coach Derrick Pumaren said. "Now it's our focus to win three straight."

The Pumaren head said getting his Phone Pals in the twelfth of the pack before the break was his goal. A win over Coca-Cola would help that goal.

For Coca-Cola, entering from a recent loss, will be a tough one with new Jeff Cariaso expected to perform some heroics.

The former Chicago Bull in the NBA struggled in his debut, a loss to league leading Barangay Ginebra, also Friday. But it was clear that the Tigerman had the game and the time spent in practice.

Import Miguel Beer meanwhile, also tries to assemble a winning streak of its own when the Beermen slug it out with the Aces.

The Beermen still be wanting off a 78-61 win over Sta. Lucia in Tuesday when Danny Ildefonso showed MVP form since returning from injury four and Gabby Espinas coming in respectable numbers.

Incidentally, Young was Alaska's former import, and coach Tim Cone had tried to recruit the former CBA MVP for this conference before settling for Terrell Ellis for some Sta. Lucia fans who have been clamoring for Young was there unavailable.

But the Beermen handled Young fine yet to open the semifinals Ellis has done for the Aces, who own 7-3 record.

This game is of particular importance to the Aces, who can re-ink first-flight for sure and place and more within range of an automatic semifinal seat. Manny R. Castillo

JOHN Arigo of Coca-Cola loses his balance as he bargains into Barangay Ginebra's Billy Mamaril in Friday's game. The Sin Kings won, 105-92.

STANDINGS	W	L
Alaska	9	2
San Mig	8	3
Air21	7	3
Talk 'N Text	7	3
Coca-Cola	6	4
Purefoods	6	4
Sta. Lucia	3	7
Welcoat	2	8

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:30 p.m. — Alaska vs. Miguel vs. Alaska
7:30 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs. Coca-Cola

3-point aces out to snare Antonio title

THOSE UP TO BE TOP CONTENDERS OF THE NACional team and the pro league's most prolific outside shooter today battled in elite cut-out to challenge William Antonio for the 3-point shoot-out title of the 2007 PBA All-Stars.

Nominees Mark Caguioa, Brethen Bilando and Jonathan Fernandezwere joined Ensley Ilustre as they try to unseat Antonio according of long-range shooting in the third-season extravaganza from April 27-29 in San Fernando, La Union, and Baguio City.

Also rostered in the event serving as one of the thrilling sidelights to the five-day mega-supported by Victory Liner are Larry Fonacier, Willie Miller, Paolo Mendoza, Dennis Lopez and Jun Simon.

Meanwhile, the PBA has decided to implement the 3-point shoot-in both the Mini Cooper between the Sophomores and the Rookies-Sophomores game pitting the Youth against the South All-Stars.

A dunk will be awarded three points based on three patterns. First, when a player takes off from outside of the foul lane and misses to the 'no-charge zone.' Second, coming off a dead ball and scored the ball in one-hit as indicated and dunked before the player's two feet touches the floor. Third, there's a dear pad to the basket for the offensive player regardless of the rebound.

Antonio was the unlikely winner in last year's 3-point shoot-out, beating veterans Olsen Racela and Jimmy Mapa in the Final.

Past champions Jimmy Mapa (2003 and 2005) and Ronald Tubid (2004) are not seeking action this time.

The All-Stars parade shoot-out, the Skills Zone (Trick Shot and Obstacle Challenge), the Mini Game and the slam dunk contest, will be held on Thursday at the Ilocos Norte Sports Complex in San Fernando, La Union. The All-Star games will be held Sunday at the University of Baguio gym.

SUNDAY SLAM BANG

Escaner title defense topbills Fistiana card

PHILIPPINE ELITE BANTAM weight champion Alex Escaner, coming off a second round stoppage of Japan's Akio Kondo, makes his title against SP No. 5 Jake Sivo, on the 12-round main bout of the Prima Fistiana Dos Sunday in the Negal Sultanate Park in Manila.

Escaner, the Ozamiz bomber in the country are also serving notice on the benefit card which is open free to the public and organized by the Philippine Sportswriters Association to raise funds for the country's disaster-stricken Bicol region.

Twenty-year-old Jerome Cuello, a left hander ranked No. 2 in the strawweight division, battles fellow southpaw Arman de la Cruz, 22, tabbed No. 4 rogue bantam Jun Tabique faces off with Alvin Cabillo.

Warner Junior dropped a decision to the lightlight with Puerto Princesa City's Rainer Leodo battling Jessie Ortiz of Bogo and Ruben Tecson, also of Bogo, and Pedro Wimama, taking on Ronald Cabillo in the featherweight.

Other fights pit Jason Parmer against Dinalado Faron and Leonard Garces against Francis Ramonia.

Veteran promoter Ramon Suzara headed the PBA for awhile, leading the Prima Fistiana. He said only a few local promoters have dared invest in hosting events to assist the worthy promotional cause.

After school Sunza, Pandaan, the man behind some of the fight cards that featured then world champions Dodie Penalosa and his brother Leslie Boy and the veteran Benny Rolando Navarrete, including a rematch in the PBA.

Instead of cash, Ildefonso early signed a pangalan for boxers and will be given to the six boxers this time.

First held in 1955 through Republic Act 1573, the PSA is organizing this year's event in cooperation with the Games and Amusements Board and the City of Manila.

San Miguel Corp., Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) are the main sponsors. Also supporting the event are Philippine Airlines, Mid-Cabinet Philippines and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

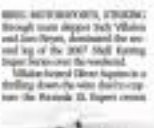
Superstar Manny Pacquiao had also been part of the Prima Fistiana, winning the WBC International super featherweight title over Ryo Miyazaki in the 1999 debut of the event.

Before relinquishing his post as Manny tried to seek the Manila mayoralty post, which will be vacated by Jim Lim, Arnold "PC" Arnaiz signed an agreement with the PSA to provide the venue and co-sponsor the event.

Villalon, Reyes strike for Team Birel

BIREL MOTORSPORTS STRIKING through team skipper Bob Villalon and Jam Reyes, dominated the second leg of the 2007 Shell Karting Super Series over the weekend.

Villalon bested Oliver Aquino in a thrilling down-the-wire duel to capture the Formula SL Expert crown.



BIREL skipper Bobj Villalon (far right) flexes it as he heads for the podium after edging Oliver Aquino in the Formula SL Expert Class.

for the Birel Team, one of the most established kart racing teams in the country.

The 12-lap final race was decided in a photo finish with Villalon shaking the checkered flag with a time of 17 minutes and 23.611 seconds, just 0.119 seconds ahead of Aquino.

Reyes, last season's Under 60 champion, produced an amazing debut with a huge win in the Formula SL Senior Class, where he captured all the sessions at the conditioned race with the fastest overall.

The 22-year-old Reyes manipulated the race to 17 minutes and 20.666 seconds, beating Paulo Nieto and third placer Ryan Mercado. He actually finished fourth overall in the combined race, even beating former Master of the Year and Birel teammate Philip Ayuda, who wound up fourth in the Expert Class.

"We're very happy with the performance of our drivers and the success of our first race this season to-day proves our drivers are keep up with Birel's championship tradition," said Birel team manager Marvin Mendiola, citing the team's eight championship titles, three runners-up and one third place trophies last year.

Among the other Birel drivers who entered podium finishes were Daniel "The Silent Killer" Chieh, Bobby Domingo and newcomer Joel Cariaso.

Chieh gave Birel a second driver title as he cruised podium finishes in the Junior Class.

Cariaso also gave a strong fight, despite being a neophyte as he wound up fifth in the Formula SL Senior Division.

Andrew Cabrera, son of PBA legend Hector Cabrera, made it safe in the Formula SL Senior Division.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Yees show way in Junior World elims

GAME A—Arigo 15 (5 rb), Yee 15 (1 rb/ast), Tolentino 10 (rb), Lanete 9 (rb), Ignacio 7, Bolaños 7, Wilson 7 (1 rb/ast), Tolentino 6 (rb), Pinto 5 (rb).

GAME B—Ayo 19 (6 rb/ast), Yu 18 (rb), Tolentino 15 (rb), Lanete 10 (rb), Ignacio 8, Bolaños 7, Wilson 7 (1 rb/ast), Tolentino 6 (rb), Pinto 5 (rb).

GAME C—Yees 22 (6 rb/ast), Yu 20 (rb), Tolentino 15 (rb), Lanete 10 (rb), Ignacio 8, Bolaños 7, Wilson 7 (1 rb/ast), Tolentino 6 (rb), Pinto 5 (rb).

GAME D—Ayo 19 (6 rb/ast), Yu 18 (rb), Tolentino 15 (rb), Lanete 10 (rb), Ignacio 8, Bolaños 7, Wilson 7 (1 rb/ast), Tolentino 6 (rb), Pinto 5 (rb).

MEET THE CUISINEE GOWN HOUSE SHEERS en route to a five-under par 67 and a three-shot lead in hole Class A yesterday at the start of the Callaway Junior World qualifier at the Legenda course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

Six had three birdies on the front nine and had three more coming home to more than make up for one bogey. That solid round yanked him ahead of John Gay Arnine, who carded a 74.

Reid's younger brother, Meggy, also led the Class Double-A 68, three ahead of Ramon Saavedra.

The first of six rounds that will determine the season's 27-strong contingent to the Junior World in July also saw Hegna de Guzman, Wilson and Princess Aquend, Blas dela Paz and Sina Galang heading their respective divisions.

Philippines Amateur Golf Championship on the inside sponsored of the third leg of the circuit organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

De Guzman showed the form that won her the Thailand Open a month ago with a 66 in girls' Class A.

Wilson scored a 76-to-lead Pennsylvania Gabriela Ng to three-way Angel Tabuena Jr. Junpi Class C, Galang matched par 71 to nab ahead of Arielle Llanes in girls' Class C and Princess Aquend had a 12-stroke lead in girls' Class D.

Quo vadis Philippine basketball?

CLEAN LIVING

Hermelo B. Nitgo

ORICO'S DEGREE WITH HONOR'S PUCSALA who said recently that the "dark days of Philippine basketball are finally over" following the country's return to the FIBA (International basketball federation).

These sports officials should be reminded that the requirement they are giving basketball a no big deal.

Hello, though. Harbour Centre-Philippines won the recent Southeast Asian Basketball Federation Champions Cup in Jakarta and Orol Reyes was all praise for his all-pro team after that short visit to the United States. I still don't see much if we could make the same impact in the bigger and tougher cage arenas like the Asian Games and the Olympics.

As I have repeatedly said, the Philippines is only good in the lower-category tournaments such as the Stanley Cup Champions Cup and the Southeast Asian Games.

Short-course basketball has never stood their misgivings were the present state of Philippine basketball.

We instances. I gathered that league sponsorships and former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud has expressed doubt over our chances in major international competitions, including the Olympic Games.

Former PCSO GM Dr. Fernando Cortes, who is also a basketball diehard, is puzzled why we are spending P70 million for basketball, which is only one event, and a measly P80 million for the coming SEA Games where there are many events.

Even Hall of Famer Carlos Loyzaga, the greatest Filipino basketball player of all time, once said there is too much importance given to basketball when there are other sporting disciplines where the Filipinos are good.

Sports critic and former PSC president Edgar Mallonzo also agreed, stressing that basketball is not the game for Filipinos.

We should accept that fact. We should instead concentrate more on sports where we have better chances of winning, like boxing, billiards, bowling, golf, tennis, football and chess, where height is not a factor.

• • •

Without much fanfare, Jessie Lucero, son of the late Manila Mayor Jesus S. Lucero, was recently appointed chief of the Manila Sports Council (Msco), taking over the post vacated by Ali Atienza, who is now campaigning to succeed his father, three-termer Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"I have worked closely with Atienza for several years now and I strongly believe Msco will be in good hands," said the young Mr.

Lucero worked previously with the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Sports Commission and lastly, as an administration officer of the Cebu Asian Games Organizing Committee.

"I am honored that former chair Ali and Mayor Atienza have entrusted me over the Msco programs for the youth," said Lucero, who will be assisted by former PSC national programs secretariat chief Ariel Arceño.

• • •

With adventure field expected to participate, the Manila Hardy Bar n Casino will be held on Friday at the Sofitel Manila Cultural and Cockpit Arena in Pasay City. Hosted by human rights lawyer Atty. Princips and assisted by Senior and Barney, the derby is for the benefit of the scholarship program and other projects of the Bulacan Hardy Association. A guaranteed prize of P200,000 or more awaits the champion. Subtractions of weights: (1) 6-2-0 kg.; 1 starts at 6 a.m. on the day of the derby.

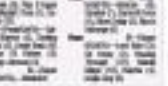
SPORTSWATCH

Utsalier-Archivo charity game today in Cebu

SAN ANDRES, CEBU—THE BARANGAY OTONG BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (BOBA) returns to Badiangan with reigning back-to-back champion Mr. Utsalier-Kimsha Pandak Cebu hosting Archivo Kombo Artwork and its Running Open at 7 p.m. The game is part of the host's annual fiesta celebrations and is promoted by Jun Sotiangco of Jabez Landscaping. It will be a charity exhibition game and will part of the inaugural Otong Barangay Basketball Association (OBBA) Tournament's Cardinal tilt quitted in Game Two of the Fist Conference Visayas Division finals, 20-11, at the Esperanza Bingbing Memorial Sports Complex.

Heritage Cup finals under way at Big Dome

A DOMESTIC BOUT AMONG LEADING GIANT COCK BREEDERS TAKES CENTER stage as the Heritage Cup Al Gold Challenge Derby starting at 1 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum with 20 fights on the roster. The championship eliminations, with entries to receive a guaranteed prize of P75 million, will be decided on Thursday after the second day of the finals. After qualifying rounds held at different venues, 18 participants have advanced to the finals in a round-robin affair to serve each. They are Tong Pamana, Hanobi Bicolan, Mayor Glen Ablaza, Jimmy Zapanta, J.J Sarmiento, Allen Pamana, Henry Sia, Bryant Sison, Boy Sarmiento, Jong Villanueva, George Gochan, Wilfredo Ng, Robert Ty, Anthonio Lao, E. Labrador, Ramon Yap, Fely, Wilson Godfrey and Danny Ablaza.



BY TOP CHOICE

SPORTS

Nadal's first serve keys win over Federer

MONTE CARLO—RAFAEL NADAL and the high rate of success with his first serve was the key to victory over Roger Federer in Sunday's Monte Carlo Masters Series final.

Nadal beat the world number one, 6-4, 6-4, without dropping his serve in one hour and 33 minutes to extend his record winning streak on clay to 67 matches.

"That is because I served slowly," Nadal said when asked to explain his 80 percent first serve success rate.

"I know that sometimes Roger plays better if you serve fast, because it's better for him when the point is going fast than if it's going slow.

"And if I move then I have more time for the next shot. So, well, my tactic is always to have a lot of first serves percentage inside against him," he added.

"Because if I miss the first serve, with the second serve it's difficult because he attacks the point very well and it becomes very difficult for me to come back in the point."

Following his 6-4 7-5 victory over Czech Tomas Berdych on Saturday, Nadal was spotted practicing his serve for more than 30 minutes on one of the Monte Carlo Country Club's courts.

Despite his 10th win on clay against the world number one, Nadal still refuses to consider himself as a favorite against Federer on the slow surface.

"I know now you more going on here this question for me. I'm going to have to say the same thing: he's the world number one and he's the favorite." AP

NADAL: Win No. 67 on clay

Italy, France sweep rivals, join Russia, US in semis

LONDON—DEFENDING CHAMPIONS ITALY and France set up a Fed Cup last four meeting with emerging nemesis Serbia quarterfinals Sunday.

They were joined in the last four by Russia and the United States, who followed the crowd-related rout by the winning nations with 3-0 wins over Spain and Belgium, respectively.

Italy beat world group debutantes China 3-0, thanks primarily to Tathiana Garbin who overcame a shaky start to beat Jan stand-in Zheng Shuai, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The Italian number one, who had beaten Sun Tian'ao, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, in the opening singles tie on Saturday, found Zheng, ranked 139 places below her in the world at 222, a tougher opponent than expected.

Zheng was standing in for Peng Shuai, who aggravated a hamstring injury on Saturday and had to retire from her rubber against Flavia Penetta, giving the Italians a 0-6, 7-5, 3-0 win.

Peng was China's top-ranked player at the fifty-court tie in Castellbenes Martin, in southern Italy, after world number 37 Li Na was left at home.

China's captain Zhang Qi said Li was injured but tennis officials suggested that she and Zheng Jie had henceforth behind.

Reverse singles

Mara Santangelo, brought into the squad after Francesca Schiavone suffered an abdominal strain, replaced Penetta in the reverse singles, beating Sun Tianbai, 6-4, 6-2, while Garbin teamed up with Roberta Vinci in the doubles against Olympic gold medalist Sun and her compatriot Yan Zheng-zaru.

With French number one Amelie Mauresmo recovering from appendicitis, Tatiana Golovin admirably filled her shoes, beating Japan's Ai Sugiyama, 7-5, 6-0, on Sunday as France bounced toward a 3-0 win to earn a place in the July 14-15 semi-final in Italy.

Golovin, who beat Akiko Morigami, 6-2, 6-4, Saturday, struggled in the first set against Sugiyama, losing her serve in the first game and breaking back only when the Japanese number one served for the set at 5-6.

The Paris-born star won the tiebreak, 7-5, and ran away with the second set as Sugiyama, a former top-10 player now ranked 27, crumbled.

"The first set was very tense. I made a lot of errors but I won it because I was stronger mentally," said the 19-year old Golovin, who climbed to 108th place in the rankings after a breakthrough 2006 tournament in Austria blend earlier this month.

Nathalie Dechy had beaten Sugiyama, 7-5, 6-1, on Saturday and Virginie Razzano took her team-mate's place in the final reverse singles to beat Morigami, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

In Moscow, world number five Svetlana Kuznetsova thrashed Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, in the first reverse singles to clinch the decisive point for Russia, the 2004 and 2005 champions.

After losing the second set, former US Open champion Kuznetsova took complete control in the third, hammering the Spanish number one into submission after one hour 42 minutes.

Reuters

Warriors stun Mavs

Nuggets, Suns hurdle Spurs, Lakers

LOS ANGELES Lakers' Kobe Bryant (left) and head coach Phil Jackson go in different directions after a timeout in the closing moments of the fourth quarter of an NBA playoff game Sunday at the US Airways Center in Phoenix. The Suns beat the Lakers, 91-87.

DALLAS, TEXAS—THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS shocked the top-seeded Dallas Mavericks, 97-85, Sunday in the opener of their National Basketball Association Western Conference first-round playoff series.

It wasn't the only surprise of the night in Texas, as the Denver Nuggets defeated the Spurs in San Antonio, 95-89, while elsewhere in the West the Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 95-87.

In Dallas, Baron Davis had 22 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists as the Warriors beat the Mavericks, who had posted the best record in the NBA in the regular season.

Stephen Jackson scored 12 of his 22 points in the first quarter and Jason Richardson added 15 for Golden State, which despite its lowly No. 8 seeding was the only club in the league to sweep Dallas in the regular season.

The Warriors have now won seven of their last eight meetings against the Mavericks overall.

In a surprise move, Mavericks coach Avery Johnson inserted former Cougar Jimmy Jackson in the starting lineup in place of veteran Erick Dampier in his and match up with Golden State's quicker starting unit.

The decision backfired, however, as the Warriors held the Mavericks to just 29 percent shooting from the field for a 38-30 to at halftime.

Davis took over in the third quarter, netting 10 points—including 5 of 6 from 3-point range—as the Warriors turned a 53-50 advantage into the decisive quarter.

Dallas shoot within 80-78, but would get no closer as Davis jumper sparked an impressive game-ending 13-7 run.

Josh Howard recorded 21 points and 13 rebounds and Devin Harris scored 19 for the Mavericks, who shot 55 percent overall.

Dallas superstar Dirk Nowitzki, a leading Most Valuable Player candidate, scored just 14 points on 4-of-13 shooting.

"Fortunately for us, it's not a one-game series," Johnson said. "We're a team that normally responds really well after losses, and we're going to have to do that now."

Warriors coach Don Nelson was pleased, but warned that there was still a lot of work to be done.

Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony combined for 61 points as the Nuggets used a fourth-quarter run to send the series.

In Phoenix, Brad's Lamidre Barbosa scored 26 points and Amare Stoudemire added 23 to lead the Suns over the Lakers, despite 39 points from Los Angeles superstar Kobe Bryant.

Canadian guard Steve Nash had 18 points and 10 assists for the Suns, who also had 16 points and 16 rebounds from Shawn Marion. AFP

NBA playoffs on TV today

7 a.m.—Orlando at Detroit (replay of 2:30 p.m.—Utah at Houston (same at 8 p.m.)

Watney clinches maiden PGA Tour victory

HOUSTON—MORGHTS AFTER COMpleting a maiden PGA Tour victory on Sunday at the New Orleans Classic in Avondale, Louisiana, Mark Watney began thinking of a follow-up title.

"I found being in that position," the 25-year-old American told reporters after winning a final-round duel with compatriot and playing partner Ben Duke by three shots.

"To be in position and pull it off and conquer your nerves, I love it. I hope I'm in contention next week.

"It's definitely a huge feeling of accomplishment," added Watney, who is playing his third full season on the PGA Tour.

"But at the same time, it's something to build on. I was able to do it this week, now I've got to go watch hard and see if I can do it again."

Watney periodically using deep breaths in the final round to help keep composure, fired a closing three-under par 69 at the Tournament Players Club of Louisiana.

Although he appeared to have the title all but in his grasp after forging two shots clear with a birdie at the par-three 14th, the Sacramento native took nothing for granted.

"It was a big running point but, at the same time, I told my caddie that it didn't really matter anything because we still had four holes to go," he said.

"I know I'm a religious and he wasn't going to give up. It was definitely big, but I didn't need to have even bunker after that."

Watney benefited from a two-shot swing on the 14th after Duke missed the green to the left off the tee on his way to a bogey four.

He then held his nerve with four pars over the closing stretch, narrowly missing a birdie at the last when his eight-foot attempt slid past the right edge of the cup.

"I did a pretty good job of staying in the moment, and here I am," Watney said with elevated smile.

Asked how much he would change

WATNEY: Feeling of accomplishment

after receiving a career-high check for $1,098,000, he smiled: "I think it'll be the same person but I get to play the Masters and go to Augusta so man the year, so I'm very excited."

Watney's breakthrough victory earned him a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour, entry to next year's Masters earlier this season, the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

His win was the third in a row by a former Nationwide Tour player, following compatriots Ben Woolsey at last week's Heritage Classic and Zach Johnson at the Masters.

"I think it just proves that it's a great training ground," said Watney, who won the season-ending Nationwide Tour Championship in 2004.

"Most every baseball player goes through the minor leagues, and that's kind of similar to the Tour has on a smaller scale. Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO Giants' Barry Bonds runs toward home plate after his 748th career home run off Arizona pitcher Yusmeiro Petit in the fourth inning in San Francisco, Sunday.

Red Sox sweep Yanks at home

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—BOSton's Daisuke Matsuzaka struck out eight batters in seven innings to earn the victory in his first start against the New York Yankees at Fenway Park since 1999.

The Red Sox defeated their American League East archrivals, 7-6, to complete their first sweep of the Yankees at Fenway Park since 1996.

The Red Sox hit four straight homers off Yankees starter Chase Wright with two out in the third inning to take their first lead of the game, 4-3.

Manny Ramirez, J.D. Drew, Lowell and Jason Varitek all took the left-hander deep before Willy Mo Pena struck out to end the inning.

"I haven't been a part of anything like that," said Lowell, who added a three-run blast in the seventh. "You

In the seventh off reliever Scott Proctor to give Boston the lead back for good.

Matsuzaka struggled throughout and was removed after throwing 109 pitches, including 68 strikes.

The Japanese right-hander, who was facing the Yankees for the first time, allowed six runs and eight hits while striking out seven.

He, the man Matsuzaka yielded matched his total allowed in his first three starts.

"But of it is having that lineup," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I thought there were times when he misled a little bit that may have affected his command. But to get as into the eighth inning, we'll take it."

Jonathan Papelbon picked up his sixth save in six many opportunities with a scoreless ninth inning. AFP

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Maronilla • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Nakasiong
Tell us your feedback: Inquire for nearest agent by messaging 2951 (Globe) or 204 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Gov't exceeds budget deficit ceiling

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Breaktime
Star is corn /B2
■ Bataan picked for coal-to-fuels facility /B3
■ Wall St. nears 13,000 /B2

1st quarter gap 15% higher at P52B

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT BREACHED ITS BUDGET deficit ceiling for the first quarter as tax collections fell short of targets.

The national government incurred a higher-than-programmed budget deficit of P52 billion, or P6.2 billion higher than the P45.8-billion ceiling for the period.

"We've had a challenging first quarter...[But] the BIR [Bureau of Internal Revenue] and the BOC [Bureau of Customs] are committed to intensify their collection in the coming months and meet their revenue targets for the year," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing yesterday.

The Department of Finance said government expenditure hit P260.1 billion in the first three months while revenue totaled P227.3 billion.

The government actually spent below what it was allowed during the period. The government was programmed to spend P281.6 billion between January and March.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., who also attended the briefing, said the government did not deliberately underspend just to meet the target of the revenue shortfalls on the government's fiscal performance.

Andaya said "the under-spending was partly due to difficulty in planning some infrastructure projects that were snagged by right-of-way problems. Also, some agencies were not appreciative enough in spending early in the year," he said.

The amount of under-spending, however, was not enough to offset the revenue-collection shortfall that led to the higher-than-programmed deficit. Revenues for the first quarter was targeted to reach P205.4 billion, making actual collections short by P18.0 billion.

All major revenue-collecting agencies fell short of their targets. The BIR, the biggest revenue contributor, collected only P143.1 billion worth of taxes, P12.1 billion lower than the

[story]

Will gov't lose in PNCC-Radstock deal?

By Dixie L. Laza

(First of three parts)

FILIPINO TAXPAYERS STAND TO LOSE as much as P18 billion in cash, cash-to-rate, future cash earnings, and shares of stock of Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) to an obscure company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

In fact, officials of the moribund state firm that runs the country's toll roads can't find what will be ceded to the firm called Radstock Securities Ltd. could be limited to "only P6.3 billion," through a scheme that critics claim undervalues PNCC's assets.

The amount that PNCC is willing to pay Radstock—which critics in industry circles suspect is linked to tycoon Lucio Tan—is just a fraction of the "conservative" estimate of the net worth of PNCC's assets, which at least P56 billion, according to documents obtained by the Inquirer.

SPECIAL REPORT

The transaction, hatched as early as October 2006 and affirmed by the Court of Appeals in August 2007, is being opposed by at least two senators and a civil society advocate who used to chair PNCC.

More importantly, however, the opposers of the deal say it is part of a private firm with an inferior credit standing ahead of the national government, which has outstanding and unpaid claims on PNCC worth at least P56 billion.

"Why the hurry for Radstock?" asked former PNCC chair Leon Flores. "Who is Radstock? Who are the people behind it?"

[story]

CURRENCIES

APRIL PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱1 = $0.0237 • $1 = ₱42.17
As of 5 p.m., April 23, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

[See more market data on Page B4]

Shares close at 2-month high

MANILA (AFX/BLOOMBERG) UNITED PERCENT higher yesterday on expectations of further corporate earnings for the first quarter.

Bullish cues

The composite index finished up 34.35 points or 0.53% at... its highest since close Feb. 27 when it rallied at 6,537.29.

[story]

Star is corn

THE FEAR, BE ME, DEMONIC at a new shortage of almost two million metric tons.

It's bad for politics—particularly for Glorietta.

Like the administration of the man named Raul...Bit-ter, Raul, who sure ad-ministration has also declared war against hunger, and it has yet to win a battle. And one man of Glorietta's campaign is corn.

Look, you don't have to be a fortune expert like Jaclyn Soliano to know that the impending corn shortage will push up the prices of animal feeds.

That will raise the production cost of livestock, which in turn will send food prices to the wet markets may up to another planet.

Then, knowing that the world is using up a lot of corn these days, some bright guys in Brussels, for instance) are hoarding the commodity.

Their heartless objective is, of course, to push up corn prices some more, so that they can make a killing by when they bring out the hoarded stock later.

Nowadays, you see, the world now corn-to-make fuel called "bio-ethanol."

In the United States, the world's top exporter of corn, there are already moves to turn a hoarded ethanol like Mexico, using roughly 14 million MT of corn a year.

The human..., one, the hoarders long pals, apparently foresee difficulties in meeting the demand for corn to make ethanol fuels. So why not take advantage, right?

We, the public, cannot do anything in these merciless corn hoarders, anyway. Being big in business, they enjoy a lot of political protection.

But let me tell you that this corn administration can always import shiploads of corn anytime...they how, so that—and that it can hurt those speculators.

Also, here is a more lasting solution, coming from a top executive of a big food company. A government program encouraging farmers to plant more corn.

That way we will be prepared by the time the world ethanol craze hits its become of increased corn production.

All right, I know it may be asking too much of our government.

***

It's as the man he Carol del Callie, president of the state monopoly inspector.

Insiders said that, only last week, Glorietta gave Del Callie another little dressing down because of those business "investments" in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

What do you know—the area accounts for about 70 percent of our GDP!

Heavy outages and high power rates are bad for politics, too.

And that same Del Callie already got some bone Christmas a couple of months ago, save the lopsided "marketing agreements" that he forged with a Korean company and a firm formed by former Hagonoy officials.

Glorietta's political allies in Mindanao shouted foul, because Del Callie's brilliant moves would certainly raise the price of electricity there.

Already in those mid-term elections, putting Glorietta against Bryan Boyd, De Palace's "smartest fellow" is falling behind in the surveys, even including Glorietta's favorites Sec. Michael Defensor and Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

Reports said that Del Callie blasted the sudden upsurge in demand for the investments.

Wait! Well, it's nonsense, again, or what do you expect? This is not exactly the first summer civil on this planet, as that Hagonoy simply cannot possibly anticipate the peak demand during the hot months. Duh!

To see, it's just another "palusot!"

BREAKTIME

Comrades R. Bernal III

Del Callie is hiding the true picture, according to Ramoon montero. The brownouts occurred because of precautionary low supply of fuel in some major plants.

Translation: It's either poor management, or lack of, er, "GOP" from the fuel suppliers—if you know what I mean.

Bill Montero said that the Pinglidan coal plant, which has a capacity of 700 MW, was running at only 200 MW because its cost supply will arrive this April 23. The Calaca plant, with 600 MW capacity, was running at 100 MW because its boiler tubes were leaking as a result of poor maintenance.

The Subic plant was down and badly by running. The Malaya could not run at full capacity for more than two days because of low fuel. The Bataan plant was out of bunker fuel last April 9 to 11, and it only started operating last April 12.

No wonder they are saying that Glorietta is already shopping around for Del Callie's replacement. Hmm-mm, and ***

Talking of Butch Pichay, the businessy congressman (printing plant and publication) who authored some 39 bills during his three terms in the House, but when I think is a bright proposal for Mindanao.

He wants to build water impounding dams all over the island, which is actually now serving as the country's food bowl.

That way, according to Pichay, the dams can catch the water during rainy season, which can then be released during the dry season. Whichever can enjoy year-round farm production.

All right, some people are saying that Pichay's association with Eliz-ueta is the reason he is lagging behind in the surveys. I may be so, but at least he does not snatch votes quicker than Eric Aquino's low officials. Right, Sherwin?

Actually Pichay had some fights with Glorietta. The most memorable one, at least to business, was over the appointment of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, who came from the Senate, in the aftermath of the "Hyatt 10."

By the way, a leading figure in the Fyatt 10 now serves as consultant of Finance Secretary Margarita Teves on Customs matters! Does this ease administration?

Pichay insisted that Glorietta could not appoint Cabinet members while Congress was in session. Thus, she could just nominate new members. Meaning, quite a few of these Cabinet guys need to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Guess what—many of the new Cabinet members has CA confirmation, many one. Take a bow, Joel!

CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

PRODUCTIVITY TRAINING

Construction Management Services

Construction Project Management — Jul 6-8
Construction Project Cost Management — May 29-30
Construction Project Contract Management — May 10-11
Construction Project Time Management — Jun 21-22
Construction Project Quality Management — Jun 14-15

Construction Safety Services

Construction Safety & Health — May 14-16/Jun. 25-28

Construction Supervisory Services

Masonry
Masonry Work/Concrete Works — Open for reservation to groups or to company
Formworks
Electrical Works
Plumbing Works
Equipment Management

Skills Training: Upgrading

Heavy Equipment Operators: Backhoe, Motor-grader, Wheel Loader, Forklift Operators, Heavy Equipment Maintenance, Electrical Sys., Tractor, Hydraulic Sys., Engine Overhauling, Industrial Metal and Welding (GMAW)

PSE set to replace 3 firms in main index composition

On the big board, First Gen edges out Benpres

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

POWER COMPANY FIRST GENERation Corp., Manila Mining Corp. and branded snack foods firm Universal Robina Corp. will be added to the Philippine Stock Exchange's main board index on May 16.

The three companies will edge out Lopez flagship firm Benpres Holdings Corp., Pilipinas Land Inc. and Semirara Mining Corp., PSE sources said.

The PSE last changed the composition of the index in December.

The benchmark PSE index is current ly composed of 30 companies that have passed the stock exchange's four main parameters.

The PSE's new yardstick for determining the composition of the main index includes measurement of the public or "free" float, which should be at least 10 percent of total outstanding shares; average daily trading value of at least P5 million (liquidity) volume turnover ratio of at least 10 percent; availability of at least 95 percent of total trading days; and five float market capitalization.

Free float refers to the issued and outstanding shares of a listed company that are not held by partners and owners. Hence, free float shares are freely available among investors in the public.

As approved by the PSE board, the new four position should represent at least 20 percent of the outstanding shares of the listed stock.

In order to pass the liquidity criterion for the main index, a stock must have an average daily value turnover of not less than P5 million during a period of 12 straight trading days. A lower 75-percent availability is required for inclusion in any of the six sectors.

Also, covered companies will be added to the PSE's six sectoral indices. Joining the PSE's financials index are Philippine Savings Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

In the industrial index, Have Gen Corp. and Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. will be included.

ABOMS Holdings Inc., APC Group Inc., and United Neptunes & Holdings Co. will join the holding firms index.

Under the property index, Metro Pacific Corp. will be removed. These due to be added are Crown Asiaplus Inc., Cyber Bay Corp., Rank Philippine Properties Inc., Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp. and SM Development Corp.

Joining the services index are Boulevard Holdings Inc., Mermaids Corp. and Waterfront Philippines Inc.

The Mining & Oil index will include Atlas Mining & Industrial Corp., Geogenics Resources Phils. Inc. and Philex Industrial & Mining Corp.

The PSE will next review the index composition in November.

Gov't to sell SMC, Meralco shares

By Michelle V Rama

PAGES BITH A SAL collection downfall, the government is now looking to offering its shares in San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co. before the end of the year to generate at least P82 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarita Teves said that, based on initial valuation, the government's stake in SMC alone was already worth about P50 billion.

Meralco shares, he added, were valued at about P1 billion.

The finance chief said the government's lower-than-expected revenue collection in the first quarter of the year forced officials to focus on alternative sources of revenue to ensure that the budget deficit this year would not fall off the target.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to sell these assets within the year," Teves said in a press briefing yesterday.

He explained that the expected revenue to be generated from the sale of shares would be enough to cover for the shortfall.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that its budget deficit for P52 billion in the first quarter, higher than the P45.6 billion set for the period. The breach in the deficit ceiling was due to shortfalls in the collection of revenues, mostly in taxes.

The government's shares in SMC is under an agreement by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the 7 percent interest of the Social Security System (SSS) and the 7 percent stake of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

In Meralco, Teves said, the national government, the GSIS, the SSS and Land Bank of the Philippines own a combined 26 percent stake.

Promo Period is from April 23 to May 30, 2007

HP is GOOD FOR YOUR BUSINESS

SPECIAL SALE! Php 39,500.00 Limited Time Only!

HP COMPAQ 7600 BUSINESS DESKTOP PC

- Pentium 4 541 (3.2 GHz)
- 512MB Memory
- 80GB HDD
- Combo Drive
- Microsoft Windows XP Pro
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Keyboard/Mouse
- x5502 15" CRT Monitor
- Warranty for CPU 3/3/3 and monitor 3/1/1

2 Years Warranty

EMERSON Network Power

LAMCO

Delaware Office Solutions (047) 224-9237

Digiware Computer & Office Solutions, Inc. (045) 888-6437

Infoworx 898-2355, 898-1257

Hytech Integrated, Inc. 712-1113

Hg Khal (032) 346-2936, 346-8920

Yuchoo Corporation 241-6631

hp

Coal-to-fuels plant proponents pick Bataan

Front-end engineering, design study to start in May

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN FIRM HEADWATERS Inc. and local partner SEM-Calaca Power Corp. have chosen Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp.'s petrochemical park in Bataan as the site for their $1.8-billion coal-to-fuels facility, ruling out Batangas and Cavite.

With the project location already identified, the company will start the preliminary front-end engineering and design (pre-FEED) study by next month.

The pre-FEED phase, which includes plot qualification and basic architectural tests of selected Philippine lands, will take about 10 months to complete.

While doing the pre-FEED, SEMI also plans to evaluate coal supply logistics, conduct a market study for products, and assess current shareholder dispositions.

Before settling on the Bataan Petrochemical Industrial Zone, SEMI president Antonio Ve said the company and its American partner had also considered Batangas and Cavite for the coal liquefaction facility.

He said the plant site should have a port nearby to allow easy access to barges that would carry the coal supply to the facility for the conversion.

SEMI has tapped a major securities company in the United States to serve as its placement agent for investments meant for its proposed coal-to-fuels facility in Bataan.

Ve declined to name the US company, however, saying only that the securities firm had more than 200 registered representatives who were ready to commence its joint finish for the coal liquefaction project.

"The firm has raised billions of dollars last year alone for other projects. Its placement agent, the firm will act as an investment bank for the investors' funds, which is expected to be at least $5 billion," he added.

So far, HEPHI and Headwaters Inc. have some $50 million worth of investment commitments for the project.

Headwaters seeks to apply its experience in mining in the development of an efficient coal conversion facility to fully utilize the indigenous coal resource in the Philippines," Headwaters Energy Services president Bob Fiorentino said.

The proposed coal liquefaction facility is expected to yield 67,000 barrels a day of ultra-clean fuels, including 33,000 barrels of liquefied petroleum gas, 27,000 barrels of gasoline and 22,000 barrels of diesel from a coal feed of 11,700 tons a day.

Apart from gasoline, diesel and LPG, the facility can also generate 67.4 megawatts (MW) of power to establish cycle from the process that will be consumed from the liquefaction plant.

This 67.4 MW of power can be channeled to the grid as this study outside of the coal liquefaction facility's own power requirements.

SM Prime eyes 35 new malls in next 5 years

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuat

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC., THE mall builder of tycoon Henry Sy Jr., is earmarking P35 billion for the construction of 35 to 40 more malls until the expansion of its string of leasing facilities in the next five years, said company president Hans Sy.

For this year, SM Prime has lined up the construction of two new malls—in Tarlac and Mandaluyong, and the expansion of existing malls in Cebu, Dumaguete and Bacolod, Quezon City, Sta. Mesa and Cubao.

By Sta. Mesa and Cubao, Inc. have some $50 million worth of investment commitments for the project.

"Headwaters seeks to apply its experience in mining in the development of an efficient coal conversion facility to fully utilize the indigenous coal resource in the Philippines," Headwaters Energy Services president Bob Fiorentino said.

The proposed coal liquefaction facility is expected to yield 67,000 barrels a day of ultra-clean fuels, including 33,000 barrels of liquefied petroleum gas, 27,000 barrels of gasoline and 22,000 barrels of diesel from a coal feed of 11,700 tons a day.

Apart from gasoline, diesel and LPG, the facility can also generate 67.4 megawatts (MW) of power to establish cycle from the process that will be consumed from the liquefaction plant.

This 67.4 MW of power can be channeled to the grid as this study outside of the coal liquefaction facility's own power requirements.

2007 and 2008.

SM Prime directors about 60 percent of its revenue from Metro Manila operations and 40 percent from malls in the provinces. It has a total of 29 malls to date.

By mid-The company has been acquiring land in the provinces for the expansion program.

Also, he said that by family was in the final stages of a study on what has to [illegible] SM Prime in three markets China.

"By the second half we can come up with a decision on what's going to be done," he said.

SM Prime yesterday secured the approval of its shareholders for the increase in its capital to P20 billion from P1.8 billion.

SM Prime executive vice president Jeffrey Lim said the capital increase would prepare the company to take advantage of any "opportunities."

For FAST & EASY payroll processing use...
MSI PAYROLL
the COMPLETE payroll system designed for SME's.
FREE DEMO on to SE areas.

5.5% Guaranteed Tax-free Fixed Monthly Income
• Affordable at a minimum of PHP 50,000
• Secured 5-year placement, tax-free
• Accessible monthly income
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime Time Deposit

SAVE COMPANY MONEY STOP ATTENDANCE FRAUD

SECURE your office from THEFT & FRAUD!
DIY Surveillance Cameras
Access Control & Timekeeping Devices
P 7,900
P 12,500
P 19,000

EVERY SECOND COUNTS
With the incredible computing power of the HP ProLiant DL380 Series, powered by the Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor your business can harness the immense computing power it needs to succeed. Save more management time with Systems Insight Manager and integrated Lights Out 2 firmware that optimizes remote management and virtually eliminates the need for onsite assistance. And from March 12 to April 30, 2007, choose a prize for every qualified HP ProLiant bundle you buy in the ProLiant Prepaid Freebies Promotion. Because at HP, we know that time is of the essence.
intel Xeon Inside Quad-core. Unmatched.
HP PROLIANT DL380 G5
P 255,000
P180,000
P255,000
P160,000
P220,000
P237,000
Call 1-800-1441-4488 or (632) 867-3557
www.hpproliant.com.ph
hp

Wall Street approaching 13,000

FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, I HAVE had problems with my kidneys and continuous pain in the left side. About three weeks ago, I made up my mind finally to do something and to my horror, I found that my creatinine level was going flash up and in Stage 3. I went to Phuentsholing Bay on Maxima Island but was too depressed to enjoy my vacation and I did not come to smile on my beach.

Fortunately, among my diamond friends are a husband and wife doctor team. As I briefed their master in only five months, they said I was too valuable to die so they have been really looking after me. I had to BEG to my office, I have been transferred against promotion, the real bahasa jingga, even though there hasn't been a cuti since 1666. They are experimenting with various blood pressure drugs designed to help the kidneys but I still need some 35 pills a day and they might put me in a detention centre. AIDS inhibitors are good but not when you are playing polos.

I will be having another batch of tests in two weeks time providing my BP stabilizes by then. In the meantime, I am having an IPO so that you can buy a stock in my kidneys. It will be known as BEARISHKE and will be underwritten by the Bank of Limbit-cantonese. If you have a bank account there, you can get shares at a discount.

On medical advice, I must shut down and will only reply to letters by e-mail and will not comment on stocks, that is the function of your broker. I will then resume to eventually take over and continue the newsletter but I hope to keep from working as long as possible as I enjoy the support with my subscribers and friends. I will continue to manage funds, free of charge, but will probably raise the amount from P1 million to P1.5 million or even P5 million at personal. I am summing up matters until midnight and this list got to stop. I will concentrate on the stock market and probably the restaurant biz jokes.

Jesse Scottson

For a country supposedly heading into recession, Peso Street is putting up a good show and the COSE makes record high daily tri-Friday night, it registered 8.68, rising 133 points to over 12,000. For 14 quarters, earnings have grown by double digits but this time around, analysts forecast 4% to contract and second their estimates to 5.2 percent year-to-year growth. In the event, with about 20 percent of companies having reported, earnings have grown by 7.9 percent and four out of every five have exceeded expectations. This week, 18 more companies will report, including a number of big names.

For the second quarter, analysts expect growth of only 1.5 percent as the economy begins to slow to a more unlikely that WSJ Street will continue to rise throughout the year. Ironically, the summer is not a good time for the stock market and the Americans have a saying, "Sell in May and go away." Consumer spending continues to rise and unemployment has fallen to a 30-year low of 4.4 percent despite 11 million illegal immigrants whose services are needed.

The dollar has been extremely weak. The euro is at its all-time high and for the first time since 1992, the pound sterling has exceeded 2. As impetuous to rejoyously, consolidate, I am very happy. The Australian dollar and also Hong high. Bankers that dollars will be used in place of Monopoly money are not true.

The yen, too strengthened to 47.31, but I doubt if the central bank will allow it to appreciate in advance. Of course, it is good for the country as it reduces the cost of oil, rice, corn and medicines but it also makes our exports less competitive and the valuation made with respect to the review of the financial records of PNCC by Panlaqhinan and Arnaldo, which have been included as part of the package in DAP's allegations of the national government's interest in PNCC," according to the minutes.

The board passed and adopted the resolution, at the same time recognizing the company's obligation to the national government to the tune of P16.5 billion for settlement advances.

Resolution 02 by Dalton Bonoan's nameselection, which was addressed to then PNCC chair Renato Valdecantos, triggered the case.

After PNCC allegedly owed a P13.7-billion claim—the collective of details face to face Harold by presidential under the Civil Code—Abraham assigned its dame spend PNCC to Radstock for a mere P3.00 million.

Radstock immediately filed a collection case against PNCC for P13 billion, including interest and penalties.

On Dec. 18, 2002, Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Judge Amelita G. Tormilla issued a writ of P13 billion to Radstock plus P40 million in attorney's fees. On Aug. 17, 2006, PNCC and Radstock entered into an agreement, which was upheld by the Court of Appeals on Jan. 23, 2007.

Bribes puts the value of the "compromise deal" at P17.6 billion.

"The amounts involved are staggering," he said. "This is not a valid contract. This is not an agreement but a project. It's an agreement to rob assets." [Do be continued]

Will gov't lose in PNCC-Radstock deal?

To page B3

Radstock's P13-billion claim on PNCC has its roots in 1978.

That year, Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corp. made a $5-million advance payment to CISCP Mining Corp. which was owned by PNCC's predecessor, Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP).

In 1986, CISCP Mining obtained another loan from Marubeni worth $46 billion yen or about P3 billion.

Both loans were allegedly covered by guarantees from the parent firm obtained that was later converted before the courts, with PNCC itself saying that nine of the documents presented were improper therefore unenforceable.

CISCP Mining eventually defaulted on its obligations to Marubeni, with the Japanese eventually having to convert its debt into equity in the firm, and eventually sending demand letters to the parent firm for payments.

From 1994 to 1996, Marubeni sent demand letters to PNCC, all of which were ignored by the firm, which was then practically bankrupt save for periodic government financial support.

Under the Civil Code, a loan prescribes—or becomes invalid or unenforceable—10 years after the creditor's last demand letter.

According to documents submitted by Sen. Franklin Drilon, the last demand letter from Marubeni was made in 1996. Thus, the obligation of PNCC's bankrupt subsidiary became legally unenforceable in 1996.

"Sometime in 1987, 1988 and 1991, letters were likewise sent by Marubeni to the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) to inquire as to the privatization status of PNCC," Drilon said in his research brief.

Drilon's interest in the matter was stoked when he noted the haste in which other lawmakers were trying to close PNCC's Brazilian contract in December 2000.

He added that he was also apprehended by celebrity-lawyer who urged him to examine PNCC's deals lies more closely. According to the former Senate President, what he discovered dumbfounded him.

"PNCC has consistently maintained that the subsidiary is capitalized thus had already prescribed," he added.

About face

In a surprising development, however, the PNCC board of directors issued a resolution on Oct. 20, 2000, acknowledging its obligation to Marubeni for what was then computed at P10.7 billion, including interest—four years after the loan had prescribed under the Civil Code.

According to the minutes of that crucial board meeting, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, APT executive executive director and concurrent PNCC director Rafaelangela Francisco "proposed a memorandum requesting the confirmation/acknowledgement and undertaking of...PNCC's obligation of Marubeni Corp."

"There is a need to ratify this because there has already been a representation of our entitlement based when converted. I would guess that the central bank would not allow the peso to appreciate to further from this level."

China's economy just keeps steadily creating and the first quarter expansion: 10.4 percent to 11.1 percent. Even the Chinese government is wary of the danger of expanding too fast and I would expect to see further increases in interest rates and a modest revaluation of the yuan. Their trade surplus and foreign reserves are becoming an embarrassment to them and source of friction with the US.

Commodity prices have been very strong with copper jumping 25 percent to $1,800 per ton, high and gold reaching $900 on source. BHP and RTZ led mining stocks higher abroad and at home, CEO broke the 1% psychological resistance level. APX reached P6 and 47 P15.50. The rising boom is here to stay for as long as China continues to expand or 15 percent.

Interest rates are on their way up and I have repeatedly told readers to get out of their UITFs. "Negative interest rates, adjusted for inflation and withholding tax, are the norm in Europe and over the counter abroad. Treasury bills and bonds should give higher returns as bond values decline. Three weeks of window-sweet caused by the governor of the central bank. Because of this, property shares have lost their luster (and MGI) for buy the object of lavish foreign selling but I think that is temporary.

Pilipinas was barely overcapitalized with new investors going in to BDO with valleases of names and TBG members and emerging with 16,000 shares per share. The investor relates to have continued his store and emerged with over 300,000 shares. BDO will have to prevent this happening in future IPO's. Meanwhile, the dusters could open at P1 and over-subscribe many up.

My mother's gone married with me just because I told her that the legs of the chair were broken than hers.

mbarba@bitzmail.com.

Gov't exceeds budget deficit ceiling

To page B3

P135.2-billion target

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buking Gilmard Jr. offered another good-humoured parody on the alleged bookkeeping of production done by some cigarette firms last December to avoid higher taxes. Under the Sin Tax law, which took effect in 2003, the excise tax on cigarettes increases every year over the previous level.

Being also political to the lifting of the 70 percent cap on value-added tax credits. The cap previously put limit on the amount of input VAT creditable. Real corporate taxpayer may claim for a given tax period.

The BOC collected only P60.2 billion in the quarter, fell significantly by P6.7 billion or 10% 8.6 billion target. The BOC collects duties on imported goods.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said the appointment of the personnel, imports disrupts consequently resulting in lower tax collections. Arevalo added that the unexpected decline in the volume of oil imports led to the BOC's shortfall.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects dividends of the national government from state-owned firms, came up P41.1 billion, short of by P15.2 billion target by P1.1 billion.

Even said the government was sticking to the target of limiting the budget deficit for the entire 2007 at P81 billion.

The Bureau chief said the government would seek other sources of revenues to beef up collections and restore it that's within the P81-billion full-year deficit ceiling.

Shares close at 2-month high

From page B1

The broader all-share index rose 31.34 points or 1.51 percent to 2,101.62. There were 54 gainers and 24 losers, while 61 stocks were unchanged.

A total of 2.42 billion shares worth P1.27 billion changed hands.

Investors shrugged off news that the national government incurred a bigger-than-expected budget deficit of P13 billion in the first quarter, as tax collections fell short of targets.

"I think the budget deficit will be overlooked by the stock market especially with strong interest in new stock offerings, and the peso's sustained strength," said Gomez Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"The launch of the 2,333-point restaurant will likely bring in funds in the 3,400 level," he added.

"The strong advance on Wall Street helped sustain the momentum in the local market," Unicapital Securities research head Ben Delgado said.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose P60 to P2,375. AFP

To page B3

IN THIS ISSUE
■ High-powered book launch /C2

LIFESTYLE

INSIDE OUT
Gary Quirino

Let a new you be born

"Don't grieve and it is to give birth to him-self" —Kahlil Gibran

THERE IS A NEW YOU waiting to be born. A part of you "which longs to transcend religiosity and spirituality and assume the position of authentic power that is longing to be born," according to Dr. Gary Zukav in his book "The Seat of the Soul." He says, "There are so many ways to reinforce soul to the heart."

And so, a window is offered to us.

Survival of the fittest

According to evolution, the species that is most evolved is at the top of the food chain. The human being is the organism that surpassed all else. In short, we cannot be eaten by any other organism for we are superior. But are we, really?

Evolved

Let us look at this in more realistic terms. Picture this scenario:

Two people are engaged in conversation because, as an onlooker, you see them interacting.

From knowledge and experience, you see both as they are—both may be intelligent, well-schooled and successful and yet they are different. One may be fair, wise and honest, while the other is probably selfish, cunning and corrupt. You would say then that one is more evolved than the other.

Are you five- or multi-sensory

Here's a clear-cut line differentiating the two:

Five-sensory

"Adopts the point of view of the traditional concept of evolution—survival of the fittest. Thus, the value placed on power to control the environment (people, situations, etc.)."

Mostly physical dominance in order to win in any competition. Therefore, the urge to have more, gain more.

Influenced only by what our eyes, ears, smells, feels, hears.

Perceives power as external (such as all institutions—social, economic, political, Money as a powerful tool of influence and fulfillment."

Multi-sensory

"Adopts a point of view that there is something more which transcends the physical.

Values wisdom over victory, teamwork over dominance.

Knows that balance is the key to the pursuit of harmony.

Ruled by inner strength, wisdom, love and harmony."

The main difference between a five- and a multi-sensory person is their belief in life. The five-sensory believes there is only one lifetime so eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die! But the multi-sensory person says "Amen to that but you have a soul."

Alignment

We have a personality with a soul. Often times, though largely unaware of it, there is a misalignment of our personalities from our souls. The result—disharmony. The key is to graduate from living from to multi-sensory. An alignment is in order.

Welcoming reverence

If our actions cause emotions, do they in energy set into motion, is it not? Therefore, if our actions cause adverse emotions, then we create problems—like discord, pain. Time to triumphant ourselves with an old friend called reverence.

Simply put, we honor life when we accept reverence in all our decisions and actions.

A person without reverence will:

"see our/owners/power as a tool or purpose

see people to use other people;

debate or devalue another human being for gain, pleasure, etc."

Are you black or white?

Perhaps the confusion of reverence that lies in the heart.

Exercise: Imagine the colors of the rainbow. Now reduce them into black or white. Which one will you choose? If you choose white, congratulations. White is an integration of all colors. Instead, inspired by your heart, influenced your color choice. Your heart is open.

If you choose black, you need to work on yourself. Let a little more light into your perspective of life so that it can open your heart. Light is the only chemical that can integrate your personality with your soul.

Invoking the light

You are not alone. You have always been without your ego who wants for you. If you focus on the absence in your life—say, love, money, health, then you will create more absence. Invoke presence instead.

BIT-13

E250

imagine a feature-packed phone that's within your reach

The Samsung E250 not only gives you excellent features, it also takes into consideration your whole wardrobe. It's the perfect phone for every fashionista. It comes in a variety of colors and is packed with really cool features like Bluetooth, MP3, FM Radio and External Video. The E250 is most definitely your phone. With Samsung, it's not that hard to imagine. ph.samsungmobile.com

VGA Camera
FM Radio
microSD External Memory
Music Player MP3/AAC/WMA
Bluetooth 2.0/USB 1.1
Video Recording & Messaging in 3GP/MP4

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Accenture Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Samsung Customer Contact Center: TOLL FREE 1-800-1SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel

SAMSUNG

FREE Transflash for every purchase of E250
Promo period: March 26 to April 28

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid while stocks last.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1328 Series of 2007

SINGAPORE'S Marja Claes, Philippine Tatler publisher Irene Marcel Francisco and French Embassy's Carol Lasso

CEBUS Lopez Vargas, Benji Lopez, Therese Cervantes and Rainer Sao Agenta

KEVIN Tan, Alana Lopez, Patrick Reyes, Dirton Lee and Jojo Dingcong

JUN MING Liu Bayot with renowned personality Richard Gutb

TESSIE Lai, French Ambassador Gerard Chevardand José Maria Carlos

GMA launches book 'Between East and West'

WOMAN of the hour and author of "Between East and West" Tatiana Markel with guest of honor President Macapagal-Arroyo and Veterans Foundation Board chair Mariano Santos, and president and founder Dominique Lemay

LIB VIEW Magno, Mae Yan Magno, Lizon and Gigi de Jongbe

IT WAS A BOOK LAUNCHING LIKE I HAVE never seen or, for that matter, experienced before, patronages, and believe me, I've attended a lot.

At the 41st floor penthouse of the popular Shangri-La Makati Hotel, I was amazed at the multi-mixing of people from every sector of our society dubbings. President Macapagal-Arroyo led the launch of the book "Between East and West" in the la Ilaw, articulate Marie Ta-nyette "Nonette" Markel. The book highlights the rich cultural exchanges between Asia and the West.

This full book is published by Anvil and designed by 2000 National Book Awardee Gail Ilarco-Kasten. It features engaging essays, accompanied by images from the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Rockefeller Collection of Asian Art, Freer Museum in Thailand and The Asia Society in New York, as well as special photographs of customs, gossip Bangkok and New York, dubbings.

Once the room was packed with book lovers and what have you, the President unveiled the book and handed a copy to Tatiana to be signed. Tatiana, the President's former speech-writer, thanked her for her support.

Proudly applauded were the intellectual gurus of hours like National Artist E. Sinnil Jose and Antonio Luz, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, president of the Magsaysay Group of Companies and trustee of Asia Society New York, Philippine Star director Kevin Belmonte, Philippine Star associate and lifestyle editor Millet Marasigan. Anvil publishing manager Karina Bolasco, president of National Book Store Socorro Ramos, and film producer and director Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara.

Beating the intellectual gathering was Intl law lawyer Mike Toledo, playwright.

Some of the chicks and hens were ambassador of France Gerard Chevardi, American Embassy minister-counselor Marc Knudsen (Kevin Belmonte has been much, much in the news), Carol Lasso, and senior advisor of the American Chamber of Commerce (ACF John Forbes).

This book is the most fun to be had for the benefit of the Veterans Foundation was made possible with the support of Shangri-La, represented by vice president and marketing GM Greg Dagsa and director of communications Joy Ramirez. Host Honorary Asia-Pacific Philippines, represented by cyber-savant managing director Olga Arcasas, and Philippine Tatler publisher Irene Marcel Francisco, the author's sister, acting gal.

BABY Girl Nicole, Bella Hualgal Gutierrez, Maria Ela Florendo Brias and Vivoc Zobel

JACKY Advincula and wife Cecille Reynoso Arnold Bishop Pressler

VIVACIOUS Louis Payot

NATIONALISTA Ed F. Simon Jose and wife Tessie

JOANNA and Raul Fernandez

MARIFI Marcos and Johnny Velasquez

CAROL Garcia and Marivic Zobel

DORIS Ho and Fe Rodrigues

WORLD-CLASS golfer good-looking Adam Scott (second from right) with Diageo Philippines dynamic marketers John Alcantara, Ivan Zalamanca and PR whiz GP Reyes

The launch was highlighted by a speech from National Artist Frederic Sionil José, who described Tatiana as "a matter of competence and compassion that puts her in a league of self-assurance and respected authors."

"Between East and West" is definitely a must-read book, pabangon. It is available at Kultural book stores in Manila and selected outlets of Powerbooks and Bestseller.

Check it out. You won't be able to put it down.

Cocktails series

Naya, one of the top taste-bars in Greenbelt 2, held its awesome Shanghai Night. Bartenders did all those shining arms lessons and put on fun with Chinese cocktail concoctions. Honorary Shanghai night.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Iwasaki

Photos by Alex Vea Bagan
story Keshah Rangel Lara

Me was told the inspiration for Honorary Shanghai sweet-tham master duo, at the end of the 19th century, captains of historic Royal Navy boats visiting China during the last century should be added a dash of fresh pressed ginger and notes in their logbook for a true refreshing long drink.

The Hans event was the first in a series organized by Hans Selection. Honorary Shanghai was followed by Honorary Rick Rendersson and New York Hours.

The party scene is so alive, especially with the introduction of Honorary Rick via the Rick Rendersson.

Which brings us how to crack the middle of the week making. dubbings. With the music of DJs Mendell Gaerlan and Dwayne Sun, the elegant ambiance of Hans and the refreshing taste of Honorary Shanghai's Fizzy and Honorary New York, Mendonca nights are simply incredible, dubbings.

Another midday drink is next, pabangon. Honorary Mission Cliff promises to introduce cognac as a shooter drink instead of the more common long drink.

Check out www.honorary.ph for more.

Golfing with Johnnie

That elegant man that keeps walking the straight line, Johnnie Walker, has a long association with golf.

Golf and Scotch whisky are definitely two of Scotland's greatest gifts to the world, dubbings. This may be why the world's leading Scotch whisky brand is the driving force behind Asia-Pacific's premier golf event, the Johnnie Walker Classic.

The Johnnie Walker Classic is the only golf tournament in the world that is played in three countries in one week. This year, the tournament will be held in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines from November 15 to 18.

Johnnie Walker Classic Philippines will be held at the Mission Hills Golf Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Mission Hills is the only golf club in the world that has been designed by three golf legends: Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Vijay Singh.

Johnnie Walker Classic Philippines is the only golf tournament in the country that is part of the European Tour. It is also the only golf tournament in the country that is part of the Asian Tour

INNER AWARENESS
Andrew Lazaraco

Religion should create happiness

LAST WEEK, I WROTE ABOUT MR. Bert Shankar, who is in Manila for the first time. He starts his public lectures and advanced seminar on the Art of Living (AOL) tomorrow at Edsa Shangri-La.

As I said last week, after my initial skepticism, I was grateful to the AOL Organization in the Philippines for what the course has done for me and, I found out, for millions of people around the world.

Here are excerpts of spontaneous answers given by Dr Sri Shankar to questions asked of him:

What is your idea of God and how can man reach him through the Art of Living course?

"That which is the basis of all creation, from which you can never be separate, that is Divinity, that is God.

"So there are different levels of understanding. On one level, on the intellectual level, God is like the space, the basis of the whole creation in which we are, we remain and we dissolve all there was, all that is, and all that will be. On the emotional level, we all seek love. Love is God and God is love.

"You cannot know God through the five senses, that has to be felt from the heart. That is why we say love is God, because only in the state of love you can experience you.

"The AOL course can get you into that transcended state of mind. You cannot experience love if you are stressed, so when you get out of stress and tension and go into deep meditation, then you realize that you can feel the love for God."

Have you seen God?

"There are certain questions for which an answer is the right answer. Like if someone is sleeping and you ask him 'are you sleeping?' and if he doesn't answer, then he must be asleep.

"If he says 'Yes,' that means he is not sleeping. This is one such question. God is not an object of your senses, it is the very basis of your life."

What is your concept of hell and heaven?

"I have none. Heaven is, perhaps, when there is harmony in your environment and within yourself, and hell is when there is no harmony within you and around you."

You said, if you wanted to introduce religion, let it be the religion of happiness. That sounds like a negation of religion as we know it.

"No, definitely we should limit a little about every religion and we should let [the] underlying good content religion. Religion should not create hatred, guilt but happiness.

"One who is full of happiness, compassion and love is truly religious, it is when one doesn't see that one gets disheartened. Both peace people should bring that happiness. If a religion does not have love and broad-mindedness then it is not worth following."

What are your long-term objectives?

"To see a smile on every face, a smile that is not fragile, a smile that does not evaporate and disappear just like that."

Well, I [sense] will surely see a lot of smiling faces in the Philippines [in] he has never seen anywhere in the world.

Dr Sri Sasi Shankar will be the speaker at "An Evening of Music, Wisdom, and Meditation," at 6 p.m., today, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. He will conduct a "Health & Happiness" workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 25-27, at the Life Institute, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Call 0917-7918190.

Let a new you be born

From page C2

Affirm and visualize

Close your eyes. See a bright, shining sun warming your body. You are radiant in your new garment of light. Now affirm: "The Light is in me."

Light therapy

While too much sun exposure can be damaging to the skin, a 15-minute "light bathing" under the early morning sun (6-7 a.m.) will lighten your mood and give you a dose of Vitamin D. Studies have shown that people who live in darkness can be plagued by depression and dark-mode thoughts.

So, into the light you go.

Love and light!

Island: "The Good Life," Studio 23, 16-17 a.m. Rate at to "Mix Image go to mua." 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Sundays, 46/87 Radio Barrel 88.3, AM 1386—now 36 at 9:30, Thursd 22/90 radio.

Free demo on energy healing

THE DA SEEKERS CORE IS CONducting free workshops on Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), an energy healing method.

The event is a cunning and connecting, center offering latest reading, divine insights and counseling.

A. Kevin Plata, master EFT practitioner and first Filipino and Asian to be admitted to the Association for the Advancement of Meridian Energy Therapies, will conduct the workshops. Plata said EFT was based on the ancient principles of acupuncture, except that no needles were used. He said EFT removed the balance and flow of energy disrupted by negative emotional experiences.

Plata said this technique had impressive results in a broad range of cases including weight loss, achievement of business and career goals...children's behavior, relationship issues, depression, allergies and addictions.

Free EFT orientations and demonstrations are held at cubicle of Dr Seekers Center, 6-7 p.m., Tuesdays, Treasure Town, 6/F, festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa; 6-7 p.m., Wednesdays, 4/L, Robinsons Galleria, Edsa corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City. Call 6377286 or 0927-5670411.

Superbods 2007 finals on April 28

CENTURY TUNA SUPERBODS 2007 will hold its Bearbiter Grand Finals on April 28 at Pier One in Boracay.

The closing of Century's image model search is the year will harbor parties, celebrities and great prizes.

On April 27, there will be the Century Tuna Lite Moonlight Party followed the next day by the Century Tuna Superbods Finals. Major sponsorships—three males and three females—will be chosen in selected finalists.

Celebrity guests and finalists will participate in the Celebrity Beach Games.

Fashion who register at the Century Tuna booth will get free massages, henna tattoos and hair braiding, plus a chance to win prizes like Sony PSP Apple iPod Video, Canon Digital Ixus 850 IS and Nokia N76 mobile phones, in exchange for labels of any variants of Century Tuna.

The Century Tuna Superbods 2007 Grand Finals will be hosted by DJ and renowned host Ira Velasco and sexy model Tanya Ramos. Thirty male and female aspiring models will vie for the chance to become Century Tuna's image models.

Winners will receive P500,000 worth of one-year exclusive modeling contract with Century Tuna. A male and a female finalists chosen as this year's Bopbi's Choice Superbods will get P50,000 each.

This year's Century Tuna Superbods 2007 is sponsored by Ironis Swimwear, are provided by Twinkle Petware Swimsuits and hotel shoes by Bruno Magli, all available at Umbrella.

WOOOH! Is Superbods 2007 will become Century Tuna's image model.

Building Blocks against Illnesses

Dear Watsons Pharmacist,

How can I build my body's immune system to prevent illnesses?

Time-honored Citizen

Dear Time-honored Citizen,

To prevent illnesses, consult your physician on what your body needs to strengthen your immune system.

Including vitamins, minerals or health supplements in your diet will help fill in any deficiencies in your body. For example, you need to synthesize your daily dietary protein, carbohydrate and ultimately, strengthen your immune system to fight off certain diseases.

- **Multivitamins** help boost the efficiency of the nutrients from the food you eat, providing you with complete vitamin and mineral support. Formulations that contain high levels of Vit. C, B complex, E and Iron also help you in cases with stress.
- **Elemental Calcium** helps delay or prevent osteoporosis, a bone disease common among women.
- **Vitamin C**, an essential aid in the "wonder worker" because it is a key immune system nutrient and a free radical fighter. It helps prevent simple ailments such as the common cold to devastating as cancer.
- **Minerals**, a natural extract from milk thistle plant, combined in an herbal supplement helps detoxify, regenerate and repair the liver. Minerals also helps treat other liver diseases such as hepatitis, jaundice and cirrhosis.
- Dietary supplements that contain all-natural herbs like **xanthoxylum berry, ginger herbs, garlic oil** and **lemon balm** help improve blood circulation, thus prevent hypertension, heart attack or stroke.

To know more about vitamins, minerals and health supplements, visit our Watsons pharmacist at any Watsons Pharmacy near you.

Watsons Pharmacy Self-Care Program aims to make consumers more informed health savvy, and empowers through professional health information and pharmaceutical advice. Our friendly pharmacists are always ready to assist you, especially when it concerns you and your family's health.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Gerardo H. Corvalho MD, FPCP, FPSMID, FPSID

Question:

I have a lump in my armpit, which I noted a few months ago. Is this cancer?

Doctor Says...

All living things, including humans, are made up of cells. Our body is composed of billions of cells and comes in many different types—brain cells, skin cells, blood cells and so on. Having cells gives human creatures, from organs and organ functioning systems. In the cases of things, our normal body cells grow, divide, and die. This is to ensure that the number of cells in each living organ remains constant. Most of our body cells divide once in replacing cells with damaged injured cells. In certain conditions, cells grow and divide rapidly. Cancer begins when cells grow out of control—rapidly dividing to form many of abnormal cells—cancer cells.

The rapid proliferation and uncontrolled division of cancer cells makes it different from normal cells. Instead of dying, they survive and continue to multiply, forming abnormal cells. Not all lumps are dangerous though. In some tumors, the cells grow in the same place and stop growing. These are benign tumors. They do not spread to other parts of the body and are usually not life threatening. On the other hand, malignant tumors cells invade surrounding tissue and spread to other parts of the body that can be deadly. So how?

Today, cancer is the leading cause of death in the Philippines and the world. Each year, 500,000 people are diagnosed with cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, while lung cancer is the most common cancer among men. Other common cancers include cancer of the colon, rectum, liver, cervix, uterus, ovary, prostate, skin, blood, bone, brain, and lymph nodes.

Cancer is caused by a combination of factors. Some of these factors are external to the body, such as chemicals, radiation, and viruses. Other factors are internal, such as hormones, immune conditions, and inherited mutations in genes. Cancer can be caused by one factor or by a combination of factors. Scientists are learning more and more about how these factors cause cancer and how they can be controlled. For example, it is known that tobacco use is the most important cause of cancer in the world today. Tobacco use is responsible for about 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancer deaths. Other factors that cause cancer include diet, physical activity, and exposure to certain viruses and chemicals.

Cancer can develop in any tissue of any organ at any age. However, the risk of developing most cancers increases with age. People are living longer, and the chance that cancer will develop is greater. Cancer is not contagious. It is not caused by bacteria or viruses that can be passed from one person to another. Cancer is not caused by evil spirits or curses.

Cancer is not a single disease. It is a group of more than 100 different diseases. Cancers are usually named for the organs or tissues where they begin. For example, breast cancer begins in the breast, and lung cancer begins in the lung. Cancers can also be described by the type of cell that is initially affected. For example, cancers that begin in skin cells are called carcinomas, while cancers that begin in blood-forming cells are called leukemias.

Your doctor can perform tests to examine the lump and determine if it is cancerous. The tests that are done depend on the type of cancer you have. For example, a mammogram is used to detect breast cancer, while a colonoscopy is used to detect colon cancer. Other tests may include blood tests, urine tests, and imaging tests such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs.

If cancer is found, your doctor will discuss treatment options with you. Treatment options depend on the type of cancer, its stage, and your overall health. Common treatments include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and targeted therapy. Surgery is often the first line of treatment for cancer that has not spread. It involves removing the cancerous tissue. Radiation therapy uses high-energy rays to kill cancer cells. Chemotherapy uses drugs to kill cancer cells throughout the body. Targeted therapy uses drugs that specifically target cancer cells.

It is important to remember that cancer is not a death sentence. Many cancers can be cured, especially if they are detected early. Even if cancer cannot be cured, it can often be controlled for many years. With advances in medical science, the outlook for cancer patients is constantly improving.

Dr. Corvalho is a medical oncologist at the Philippine General Hospital. He holds clinics at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and San Pedro Diliman Hospital. Dr. Corvalho is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

AstraZeneca
c/ares

Experts promote low-tech but effective way to prevent diarrhea

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE Association of Medical Technologists (Pamet), the National Confederation of Barangay Health Workers (NCBHWI) and Independent have launched a campaign to educate mothers about diarrhea, one of the Top 3 killer diseases of young children.

The campaigners want to alert parents to the risks children with diarrhea face. They also want to teach people how to prevent this perennially fatal disease through the simple, cost-effective technique of hand washing with soap.

In the Philippines, diarrhea is among the Top 10 causes of deaths. A recent outbreak in Bohol reportedly killed two and in Pangasinan, 24.

The partners' organizations stressed that diarrhea was preventable.

Pamet president Dr. Lolo Florento said the best way to prevent the disease was to wash and wash hands well. Water for drinking and cooking should be clean, and hands must be frequently and properly washed with soap and water.

Florento said hand washing with soap was the simplest way to prevent diarrhea. "Children should always have access to clean water for drinking and soap for washing their hands."

A study conducted in Pakistan with the assistance of the United States Centers for Diseases Control showed frequent hand washing with soap could reduce the incidence of diarrhea by up to 52 percent.

Pamet health experts, in partnership with Independent and the NCBHWI, have started a dissemination schedule in the country as well students and teachers of the lasting benefits of hand washing with soap.

Mothers, children and school officials in the schools they visited have diverse clues against behind the health campaign.

PARTNERS IN HEALTH: National Confederation of Barangay Health Workers president Erminda Rodasio and Pamet president Dr. Lolo Florento

Pineapple for a slimmer you

FRUITS & PASSION HAS launched the Pineapple Slimming Ritual.

Enriched with pineapple extracts, the Pineapple Slimming Ritual fights unsightly dimpled skin that affects over 90 percent of women.

Severine Merlé, director of product development at Fruits & Passion, said the company was constantly searching for new natural ingredients to create products which effective but natural formulas. The said pineapple was an ideal ingredient for slimming products.

Researchers found that pineapple, particularly the stem, contained a valuable enzyme called bromelaine. The enzyme helped boost the slimming process and improve the appearance of the skin.

The Pineapple Slimming Ritual has four distinctive and complementary products to **refine and smoothen skin. Rich in active ingredients** such as bromelaine, bromelaine filtered pineapple extract, papaine, borage extract and coffee beans, the products are to perfect to help slim the silhouette.

Here is the new product's four-step program to a slimmer silhouette:

Step 1—Start off clean.

The Pineapple Slimming Shower Cream cleanses and tones the skin and initiates the slimming process.

Step 2—Eliminate dead skin cells.

The Pineapple Slimming Exfoliat regenerates epidermal cells stimulates irregularities through the combined effect of massage and chemistry with its active peeling properties. It prepares the skin for the Pineapple Slimming Serum.

SLIMMING Butter Maximizes treatment with bromelaine, 250 ml, P1,350

SHOWER Cream gentle cleansing body treatment, 200 ml, P715

Step 3—Stimulate dual-slimming action.

The Pineapple Slimming Serum is a dual-action body-shaping concentrate that activates the slimming process and acts as a preventative.

Step 4—Moisturize and tone.

The Pineapple Slimming Butter moisturizes and tones the skin for 24 hours. Regular use is recommended as a preventive treatment.

Fruits & Passion is a Canadian company with headquarters in Montreal. Established in 1993, it now has a network of 150 boutiques, and is found throughout Canada and the United States as well as Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Fruits & Passion (www.fruits-passion.com), exclusively distributed by Avano Specialties Inc., is at Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center and Ali Mall of Asia.

Free sports training April 28

A FREE ONE-DAY summer sports training will be conducted at Robinsons Malls.

A project of Robinsons Land Incorporated, **it will start April 28 at Robinsons Town Mall Las Piñas and end May 27 at Robinsons Place Dumaguete.**

Top sports people and coaches will teach the basics of basketball at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Starmills San Pedro; taekwondo at Robinsons Townmall of Las Piñas and Robinsons Place Pioneer; dance aerobics at Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Metro East and Robinsons Place Cainta; and boxing at Robinsons Place Angeles, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Galleria.

On May 27, Philippine Basketball Association veterans Jojo Lastimosa and Paul Alvarado will be at the Robinsons Mega Mall (tel. 6836500 locals 700, 702 and 1107).

THE AUTHOR, right, with Indian actress Bhoomika Aparna Sen, center, and UP Film Institute's Lilnay Gumangan Cantos

RP cinema in festival of activists

By Ellen Orgloloo-Maré
Contributor

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT was a women's film festival because it was set in March, Women's Month, and organized by Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action, a international nongovernment organization based in India working for the empowerment of women. But the festival title did sound unconventional, exciting, provocative, not at all grim and determined. Is this about pornography?

Believing curiosity is a spice of controversy between dominance and marginalized voices, "Victims of Desire: Sexuality and the Cinematic Imagination" was organized to explore the ways in which desires get articulated—how normative and non-normative sexuality get represented in features, short films, documentaries, animation, music videos and experimental films in South and Southeast Asia.

In short, the four-day event held March 7 to 10 was not only multifaceted, it was multigender. It was not merely a film festival but a conference as well with a multidisciplinary approach. It was a gathering of film auteurs, educators and activists.

Festival site

First the setting. Built in 1584 AD, the Soonimana Fort Palace is among India's oldest heritage resorts. Its name was derived from a movie lord chieftain, Wanda Mru, who when defeated by the Chinhuan, pleaded that his name be given to his lost kingdom.

Located 122 kilometers from Delhi's international airport, Shoonimana is situated on a majestic plateau, concealed in a honeydew frontal net of the billion-year old downfall ranges. The property covers 18 hectares and the stepped palaces of the architectural jewel cut into the hillside is spread over 1.2 hectares and traces 18 lavish centuries of the most splendid stories.

There were some 108 delegates...from Indonesia, Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Canada, New Zealand, Philippines, even from the US—and the place was booked just for us. It was the perfect setting, as recollections at the film festival conference was celebrated.

The films

About 50 participating films (exhibitors) can (more under ten) fans audience.

"Mr. and Mrs. Iyer" (2003) tells of the growing relationship between a Tamil Brahmin ("high caste" Hindu) traveling with her son and a Muslim wildlife photographer during a bus journey amidst Hindu-Muslim riots. It is directed by Aparna Sen, who made her debut as film director with "36 Chowringhee Lane," which won the Grand Prix at the Manila International Film Festival in 1981.

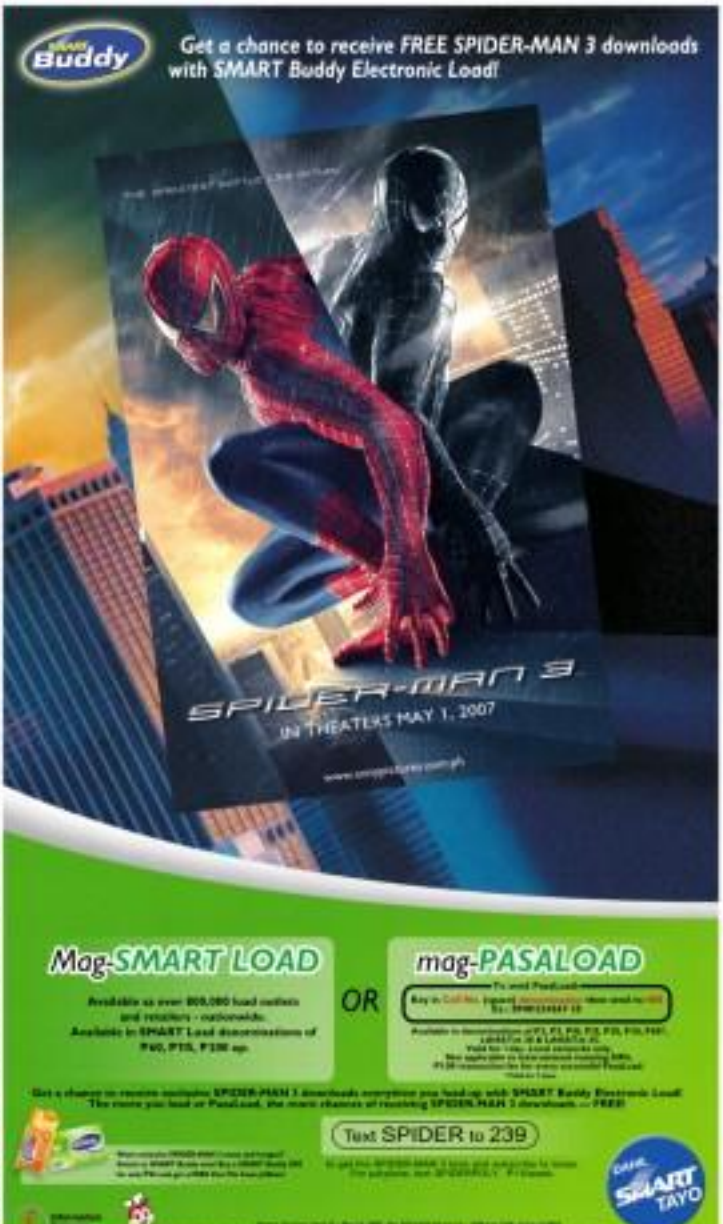
Pick her succeeding films, she has since won distinctions in Locarno and Hawaii and at the Indian National Film Awards. In India, she was the first to have tackled the issue of adultery in cinema.

"Iron In Blood" (2006) is an intensely moving personal essay about living in the shadow of illness. It is directed by Richard Fung, a part Barbadian/Bo Pellow at New York University and a Bell Canada Awardee for Lifetime Achievement in Video.

Based in Toronto, Fung is a video artist, writer, theorist and educator. His works range from the role of the Asian male in gay pornography to colonialism, migration and racism. His films have been widely screened and collected internationally and his essays have been published in many journals.

"Iron in the Blood" explores two of Fung's closest relationships—with his late sister Sau, who died in 1975 of a rare blood disorder called thalassemia (which literally means "sea in the blood"), and with his lifelong lover, Tim, who has lived with HIV since 1986.

"The Last Brave" (2005) is Rhida Mitra Sharma's documentary on Indonesia, revolving around the life story of Pramoedya Ananta Toer, leader of the ancient sect of priests, known as Sinas, who partake over the pre-Islamic religion associated with Surya/Codigo. Sinh, head of an almost dead



SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

How far would you go to keep a secret?

NOW SHOWING

IMAX

movietime exclusive premiere

TULAD NG DATI

Opens APRIL 25 at Ayala

Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview, Mall of Asia, Marikina, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa

FIREHOUSE DOG

The most famous and well-pampered pooch gets separated from his owner and ends up as a mascot for a hapless fire station.

Watch how this man's best friend plunges the lives of a 10-year-old boy and his fire chief father and ruin their station, not the city's finest.

OPENS APRIL 25

NEHMANA Fort Peace a one of India's oldest heritage sites. It was exclusively booked for the festival.

STRICTLY R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

HEATHER GRAHAM BRIDGET MOYNAHAN TOM CAVANAGH

SHE'S PRETTY. SHE'S SASSY. AND SHE'S IN LOVE. WITH HER BROTHER'S FIANCÉE

GRAY MATTERS

OPENS TOMORROW

STRICTLY R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

OPENS TOMORROW

3 WINNER ACADEMY AWARDS BEST ART DIRECTION BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY BEST MAKE-UP

PAN'S LABYRINTH

INNOCENCE HAS A POWER EVIL CANNOT IMAGINE

RP cinema in . . .

From page D1

religion, somehow for the new genres, tion of sacred transvestites (thermophilic saliva) to carry on her tradition.

Such explains, "We represent the gods. No one knows if the gods are male or female. (but is why we are both." After the screening, the director shared her insight on the differences between the lion and lion, how the lion would daily those who are different—whom the Pest would normally marginalize.

RP bets

From the Philippines, there was the... latest, Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," which signed "Can Pull Himself" and the writer's "Mga Pusong Ligaw."

From heterosexuality to homosexuality, palpating to pedophilia, coinciding to the rise of right-wing movements, films were viewed and discussed from various gender and cultural perspectives.

I truly appreciate that the gallery-ing was not identity-based—women, LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender], etc.—or is normally the case, given those topics. At Justine Ben...former executive director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development] is in Toronto, Canada and currently on the editorial board of Gender Equality and Development, the Social Women's Initiative, Gender at Work Collaborative and Society for International Development—exhibited during assessment. "It is so wonderful to work with the boys again!"

Discussion

It was also a convenience, never mind if the three groups had a different logo. The academics, radical documentarists, transgressive, digital spaces, the filmmakers, with their own. Del Rosario] our screening, depicts in his film is not necessarily condemnable. "Because life is not black and white", Aparna Sen or what she directed a particular scene the way she did and what she meant by it: "Touch is sometimes necessary."

As for the RCD workers, it was sometimes who put the two groups together, rendering the power and significance of film in our

FROM LEFT: Animal participants from around the world: Yann-Hei Wong, the author, Shreya Graham Dares, Gwenaëlle Mora, Rapha, a walrus/ Antigone, Joanna Kerr, Priyanka Menon, Soo Ling Cheng

RP cinema . . .

Pornography Kit

using footage.

There were 12 topics for panel discussion among them, "The Importance of Representation of Sexuality at the Cinema, private Moment," "Safe-sexing Porn, Violence and Exploitation" and "Films for Social Interventions."

Interweaving. This was the second most effective method to describe the organizers. The organizers are now planning to do a travelling festival, hopefully to include the Philippines.

(The author is an award-winning independent filmmaker.)

MUETTHAI from Pattaya Dramaphai, left, caught with Thorlfen, "The Beautiful Room," with M'dangan Akim Cámara.

Parallel

This writer was a panelist for the lively exposition with Jeanna Kerr ("The Future of Women's Rights: Global Women and Sexuality"), Rebekka Dawn (a writer and documentary filmmaker whose works tackled prostituted women), local women in politics and women who won a social development and Arvind Narrain (a member of the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore, India, a collective of lawyers who support rationality and legality and power).

I personally would connect to Rebekka Kerr's who, despite being strongly committed to causes, found discomfort in the term "films for social interventions." She stressed against how our politicians act for our own, stifling free thinking and creative expression. She also raised the underlying motivation (full color/quality) between the advertise and the underwear under such a structure.

Intoxicating

Though I have no aversion to the term "interventions," having been raised by the Philippine Educational Theater Association, I did affirm that the organizers' acknowledgement of film is a major tool for change, aimed a moment of "edutainment" for a two-day festival-conference.

I did argue that film/tv/social intervention meant a number of changes. If that is possible, aimed at a problem and found a way to present a new perspective, it going to reduce the people's access to those tools for communication themselves; #1 that the people who take up the tool—the filmmakers—cannot be allowed to separate from their inner bodies and SO it is not an impossibility of ideas, but a means to provoke discourse.

indieSine Featured FILM of the week

APRIL 18 to 24

at Robinsons Movieworld Iloilo

NOW SHOWING!!!

Topel Lee's

DILIM

A highly-satisfying suspense-horror film that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Starring RICA PARALEJO, EMILIO GARCIA & MARIO MAGALONA!

indieSine

ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

Araneta Center | Gateway Mall | SM Megamall

Greenhills CINEPLEX 10 — ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

WILD HOGS	SHOOTER	PERFECT STRANGER
THE LAST MINUTE	THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	THE REAPING
ANG CUTE ng INA MO	SUNSHINE	TENANG KUNG WALA SIGLO	WILD HOGS

SM MALL

1 SHOOTER	2 WILD HOGS	3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
4 THE LAST MINUTE	5 ANG CUTE NG INA MO	

For ticket inquiries, please call Ticketflix at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE | PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULES EXPRESS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 THE REAPING - THX	6 SUNSHINE
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	7 THE LAST MINUTE
3 WILD HOGS	8 indieSine: DILIM
4 SHOOTER	9 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
5 PERFECT STRANGER	10 300

indieSine Featured FILM of the week

APRIL 18 to 24

at Robinsons Movieworld Iloilo

ERMITA

1 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	5 THE REAPING
2 WILD HOGS	6 PERFECT STRANGER
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	7 THE LAST MINUTE
4 SHOOTER	8 SHOOTER

METRO EAST

1 THE LAST MINUTE	5 SUNSHINE
2 WILD HOGS	6 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	7 PERFECT STRANGER
4 THE REAPING	8 SHOOTER

NOVALICHES

1 PERFECT STRANGER	4 THE REAPING
2 WILD HOGS	5 SUNSHINE
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	6 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

PIONEER

1 PERFECT STRANGER	3 WILD HOGS
2 SHOOTER	4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

STA. ROSA

1 WILD HOGS
2 PATHFINDER
3 TMNT
4 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

LIPA

1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 PREDICAMENT
4 SQUIJOR
5 300

DASMARIÑAS

1 TMNT
2 SUNSHINE
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
4 WILD HOGS
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

ANGELES

1 TURISTAS
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 WILD HOGS
4 TMNT

IMUS

1 MISS POTTER
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
3 THE REAPING
4 WILD HOGS
5 TMNT
6 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

STARMILLS

1 WILD HOGS
2 TMNT
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
4 THE REAPING
5 MISS POTTER
6 TURISTAS

BACOLOD

1 PATHFINDER
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 RESERVE
4 THE NUMBER 23
5 WILD HOGS
6 SQUIJOR

ILOILO

1 PATHFINDER
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 WILD HOGS
4 TMNT
5 THE CHANTING
6 COMPOUND

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY EDD ARBEN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

NUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

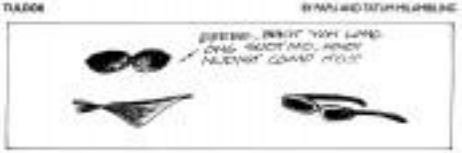
ATOMIC ANEL MISSY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY TYSON PABULAYO

EKO MACHINE — BY EDD ARBEN

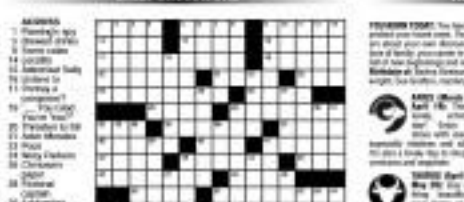
MAGKAIBIGAN — BY JONNETTE GO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM HILARIDEAN



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

					1	5	2	
2	4	5	8				3	
1			2				7	
4				1		8	9	
	6	2		9				4
	2				6			3
	3				9	7	5	2
	5	9	4					

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Type and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	2	1	8	5	9	7	4
1	5	7	4	9	2	8	3	6
8	4	9	3	7	6	2	1	5
9	7	3	6	5	4	1	2	8
4	2	6	8	3	1	5	9	7
5	8	1	7	2	9	4	6	3
3	6	4	9	1	8	7	5	2
2	1	8	5	6	7	3	4	9
7	9	5	2	4	3	6	8	1

Teen actress in search of a sugar daddy

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

MADDAM Aguilar with her kids Zara Ferdinand Schutz, who will be baptized on May 6

QUICK: WHO THE TEEN ACTRESS IS. She desperately needed to have a role to audition for, so she volunteered to star in the flesh trade. As my source narrated, "Nagpabenta talaga sya ng BOBS. Gusto niya mabilis kasi sobrang laki ang kailangan niya."

It's her body, anyway, so she can use it the way she wants to, right? "What about her conscience?" Sarcasm-loaded question reflects the hooker," says my mole. "Sure had a few drinks in a hotel room. She put something in his glass while he took a shower. When he passed out, she stole his money (about P200,000) and car, nearly." Beware of this pretty, young thing. She may seem to be sugar and spice but not everything about her is nice.

Guy: She starts in a show that's aired Monday to Friday.

Unwitting 'sinong'

WHILE Sunshine is off-ugg welcoming Ken Aquino and Jansen Yap's hotSwitch by Aurora, a naughty pre-Sunday comment-er "Kuya Jojo, is there a show in which sinong" show all, may pinagsasabihan sila noong if ya ah at hotsex?

I answer: Hot sex? Not that I get no reply. Probably he'd rather not live up to his celebrity bad's sense and act like a "Sinong" for Baby Jaime Jacinto the host.

Biz buzz

PETSE posting: Save orders from celebrity-searching mall thieves selling cute new hedgehog creatures. Per a charge, let's spread the word about "Sonic Wawa" to avoid it's sonic.

Pauleen Sunio: Sweetheart 64 12 for sale. 12K negotiable. Application is stalled. Vic Eleen sarcastique. Lights, bags, 5 cable, dishes, sofa, g, price 6 5000. Electricals, charger, 121. Call 09321 860 5001.

Jolina Magdangal: Dodge Ram Road-rob '05 model w/ brand-new generator and Ford Chateau FI 50,000 model (both well-maintained). 1.5M for both vehicles. Call 920-2489 or 09173035942.

Ogie Alcasid: For franchising of Ogie Doggie hotdogs, call 09489997 a 8307753.

Cheyenne Cheadarao: For romper and sun, tanned accessories. Call either host and replacers.

Ai Bayot: Check out Bayot's Grill or Cornucopia table license.

Maggie Aguilar: Airline — one-of-a-kind of pop art on every restroom in many hotel. The latest and trendy coffee shops and bars. Each set a brand painted by years today. Its medium a fabric artistic creations, but the products are well-ordered and trendy—and marketable, too.

Products sold separately, P1,000.

Products sold as set: P3,500.

Art work as per commissioned: P1,000 call 5064411 or email ma_maddahan@mail.com.

Sony Vivanco: Spoil in my room titled HEROES—Missing, Balancing, Fighting of Epistemology School. Opens first April 27. Call 8323 9332.

'Bumblebay'

HEROES How is back and let's how no re-numbering the action point in Pluto movies. After five years it crossed all over the globe that took him to places like the legendary Outer Brothers Bradshaw's movie sound stage in Wang Yang (of "Crouching Tiger" fame), he put up his own digital studio.

Don't know who is the Mike movie "Bumblebay" (Speaker Pilmer) which opens tomorrow. The movie has cool, retro vibes to it. His co-stars are Gil Bradshaw (makeshift model Bella Gale, Allan Mendel, Ariel and Mandrick. Bond's days of being "the ex of Michael Morgan" are over. He wrote the lines in a notebook at the 21st century.

'Hiwa sa Malite'

UNSEEN relies on another character details and gives it. He de Kaat ABS-CBN treatment with the new love triangle of Mariel Evangelista, Geoff Eigenmann and Yi Fleischer in "Hiwa Sa Malite" which begin airing yesterday.

Based on the hit film that starred Vanessa Hudnut, Christopher de Leon and Gwen Montano, the series marks Mariel's grand return to the Kapamilya network and her reunion with Geoff matinee idol. If their theatrical romance has yet never chance to blossom, now that Hiwa Sa Malite Sinukuan, at least on this area yo their fans can still fantasize about the two of them together.

Will Geoff elect ask Eden, "Balikan mo ako sa Hiwa?"

Summer league

NOW on to third year, like Philippines and ABS-CBN partner to kick off the Nike Summer League 2007. It serves as a training ground for the NCAA and UAAP teams of tomorrow. A total of 74 home will compete in 257 games. Joining this year's league are reigning champion UE, UAAP champion UST and NCAA champ San Beda University, Mapua, La Salle and PBL.

For more info, log on to www.nike.com.ph.

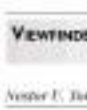
Summer prizes

MALL's green summer vacation for two to St. Lucia East Department Store's "The Great Escape 2." Until April 30, your P800 purchase gives you a chance to win cash and a trip for two to Boracay. Grand draw is on May 4.

E-mail: marie.rigby@abs-cbn.com

8TH OF GUITARS
Actor and musician Kevin Bacon performs with the "Bacon Brothers" during a recent tribute to Bruce Springsteen at Carnegie Hall in New York.

When man dares to play God



VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

THE CURRENT SCI-FI FILM, "SUNSHINE," has a misleading upbeat title. It turns out that the film, which is set in 2057, is actually about The Inevitable, as the universe's last because is moving off, imperiling life on Earth.

Some years ago, a space mission was launched to detonate a huge explosion to reinvigorate the sun, but nothing has been heard from it. So, a second mission has been initiated, and its members are sent approaching their intended target.

In fact, so good—but then: The first half of "Sunshine" plays it cool and cool, as our astronauts wonder. Before we can finally decide all, however, Danny Boyle's screen reveals its real conflict and thematic thrust.

It turns out that this isn't a movie about a human decision to save life on Earth. The film is really about a disturbing question—but the mission exists: Who is true to play God by "bombing" the sun back to flaming, seeding life?

This question, were more interesting enough, is asked not by one of the several astronauts assigned to the mission, but by one of the three group. Huh? Weren't they all indoctrinated so they appreciated the sun? It's not quite.

So, the movie soon comes to resemble a parable production, and becomes a right-for-our-times melodrama in outer space! The shift in tone and focus is a big jolt, but at least it holds up the thematic proceedings and makes the movie second half much more rewarding than its first.

It's during this second half that the movie's loosh finally get a chance to tour their thematic stuff. Cillian Murphy plays a physicist who is dumped early into the film (the spaceship's secret protocol), while Michelle Yeoh is a botanist, and Chris Evans plays an engineer.

As the mission is submerged by its unexpected outcomes, they capture all both physically and emotionally, proving that, no matter how secure and advanced technology becomes, people still remain the same, with the hope and hope of heroism common to us. Together with good, technically, well and just plain nice behavior.

Ironically, the "living ghost" who violently sought the heroic solution does so in the name of spiritual principle. He believes that God's will should not be superseded by man's intelligence.

The point is well taken, but in the light of the other options of extinction of mankind it, well, most of the humans in the movie's audience would side with the members of the second decision, we dare say.

In any case, that is really "just" a movie, and the current summer slots indicate that our sun is not about to crash out in the next few thousand years! So, let's enjoy this "sci-fi melodrama" for what it's worth, where it's nicely, and leave well enough alone.

Feedback

THE TELEVISION Advisory Group, Mabuhay Chapter, reacts to the "Pinoy Big Brother" fiasco in which "the ladies were asked to look for and catch bugs. They were shocked when bugs out, with a lot of opportunities for the guys to make 'shooning'...and many did. Once the ladies were two-piece bathing suits. After the bugs were caught, each lady was asked to kiss it—and we thought that was just yucky and senseless...

"If a grown-up reluctant, one of the guys had to get in a bottle because it was not the time to use the toilet... Real Screenings says the show is a disservice to Antong Banay. But we sometimes pity the participants because they are exposed to the whole nation with all the embarrassing situations they are placed in. Here can we say that what they are doing is 'sinong Antong'? Perhaps a more appropriate term is 'nakakahiyahin,' both for the participants and viewers.

"Please do more sensible things and not make fun of those unaware. If the objective is to make jokes out of them, please do those outside the necessary media or audiences. Catching and kissing bugs and passing it a bottle will not do anything to enhance their acting careers..."

SHANG CINEPLEX

WILD HOOD
THE SHOOTER
PERFECT STRANGER
THE LAST BINGO
PREMIERE THEATRE
HILLS HAVE EYES II
Catch the Cineplex Special
SPIDERMAN 3 TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!!!
Opens on May 1, Tuesday
at the
SHANG CINEPLEX
Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER (MAKATI) TEL: 893-1404
THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2 R18
THE LAST BINGO G
WILD HOOD PG13
SHOOTER R13
AND ITS NO BIG DEAL
PERFECT STRANGER R13
PRICES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB R-18
THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
The lucky ones die first.
NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
SHANG CINEPLEX
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Galleria
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Manila
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Metro East
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Novaliches
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Ermita
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila

KID FIT

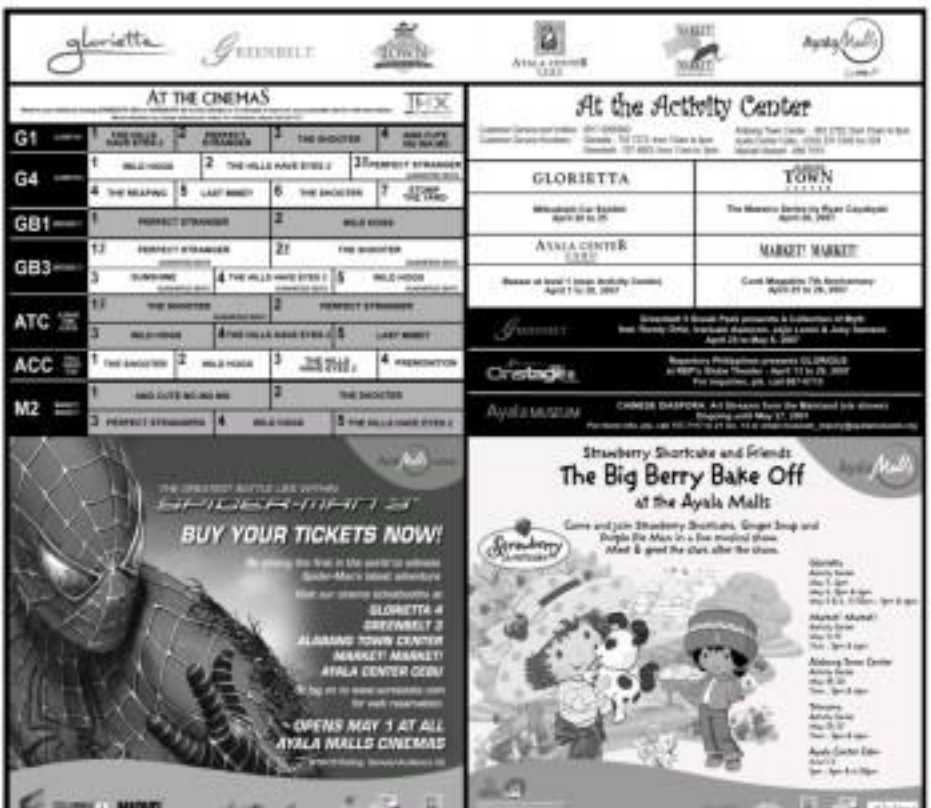
The original party animals gather in one movie

THEY'RE THE ORIGINAL PARTY animals.

"Backyard," now on VCD and DVD, stars Otis the Cow (voiced by Kevin James), Ben the Cow (Sam Elliot), Miles the Mule (Danny Glover), Bessy the Cow (Wanda Sykes), Etta the Hen (Andy MacDowell) and Daisy the Cow (Courteney Cox).

Shortly on the farm, the summer drinks let's to change, keeping all the animals safe and sound. But when the farmer is out of sight, the barnyard always shows "Clean" and all of the barnyard animals spring up on two legs, walk, talk, watch TV and eat their own pancakes/pizza.

But Otis the Cow, the last cow is the most important. He and his best friends—the Rhino, Freddy the Ferret, Pack the Rooster and Pig the Pig—are world-class pranksters always in the mood for a laugh.

As soon as the farmer hits lights out, the barn is transformed into Party Central. When Ben is no longer able to lead, Otis tries to keep order. But without Ben to keep everyone in line, they have hectic hours.

"THE BARNYARD"